

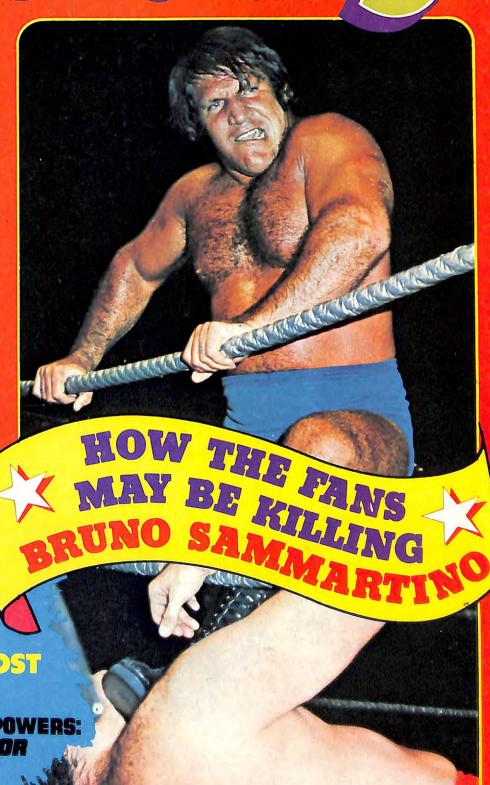
Wrestling's Shocking Mystery:

WHY HARLEY RACE CANNOT DEFEAT A MAN NAMED BRISCO

HAS PAUL JONES LOST HIS GUTS?



JOHNNY POWERS: VILLAIN OR VICTIM?



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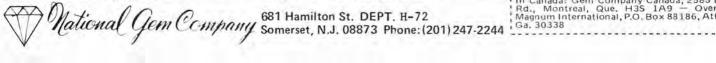
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# THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

# INSIDE DE LA COMPANSIDE DE LA COMPANSIDE

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ROBERT J. THORNTON Managing Editor

> BILL APTER Assistant Editor

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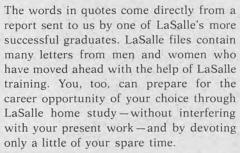
ANNE MARIE MASCIA HUBERT PATRICK Art Staff

> THEO EHRET TONY LANZA BOB SABRE Photographers

COVER PHOTOS
BY
JIM CALDWELL
& BILL APTER

# "Look who's smiling now!"

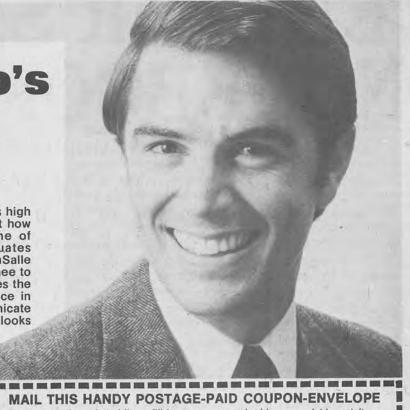
Sometimes a man sets his ambitions high enough to make skeptics smile. But how often he gets the last laugh! One of LaSalle's more successful graduates writes: "Since enrolling in the LaSalle course, I have progressed from trainee to a management position at three times the income. I now have more confidence in my ability and can better communicate with top management. My future looks even brighter."



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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK King Editor-in-Chief

#### Peter King

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As Editor-in-Chief of the world's largest selling wrestling magazines, I more than anyone else know the dangers involved in being a wrestling reporter. In the "good old days" when I was strictly a reporter, I was often manhandled by some of wrestling's most vicious rulebreakers. Fortunately, I am a strapping 200pounder and former all-collegiate wrestling champion so I know how to take care of myself. On one occasion I even made a notorious bad guy (initials I.K.) cry uncle.

However, there are some reporters on my staff who are not as capable in self-defense techniques as I am. Associate Editor Michael B. Kape, who is only 5-6 and weighs about 120 pounds, was recently burned by The Sheik during an interview in Toronto. Now Sheik stands well over six feet tall and weighs 263 pounds! What he did to Michael was the act of a coward, not a professional athlete!

It is well known how many times Assistant Editor Bill Apter has been attacked. On many occasions Bill has returned to the office a nervous wreck after being roughed up. Like Mickey Kape, Bill is a small man who can in no way defend himself against those large, incredibly strong professional wrestlers.

What can be done to prevent these attacks? I have only one answer. The next man who attacks any one of my reporters will have to then deal with ME, personally! Although I hate uncalled for violence, I am sure, if forced, I could dish out a lot of punishment to these cowardly athletes who get their thrills beating up on defenseless reporters.

The Editor has spoken! I hope the wrestlers are listening.

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harmless This being
the case you have
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which will allow
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any threatening any threatening situation that may occur

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man can over-

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routine assignment for Associate Editor Michael B. Kape (below) into a horrible nightmare. Kape received second degree burns.

ORONTO, ONTARIO - Armed only with a Berlitz Arabic English dictionary, I bravely decided to call upon The Sheik in this beautiful city in Canada. Everyone had warned me beforehand against making this visit, but I decided it was time one reporter sat down and interviewed this notorious, firethrowing wrestler.

Now bravery is not one of my more distinct characteristics. But maybe it shouldn't be called bravery in this case. Maybe it should be called foolhardiness. I thought I was prepared. Knowing that everyone wanting to see The Sheik had to be cleared through Abdullah Farouk, I first called upon the manager for approval.

Go ahead and try," Farouk told me. "But you'll be going in there at your own risk. No one has successfully interviewed Sheik."

I told him I had an idea as to how to go about talking to the fiery wrestler from Arabia. I would try to speak in his native tongue, to make him feel more comfortable. This, I felt, would be the answer.

I must have looked a ridiculous



sight walking down Younge Street, trying to memorize phrases out of my Berlitz dictionary. But I was determined to go through with this insanity.

Maybe.

A chill went up and down my spine as I entered the hotel where Sheik was staying. My hands were shaking. I was suddenly very scared. But I was also determined to go through with this. I timidly

(Continued on page 51)





# Behind the Dressing Room Door by Randy Gordon

W ELL, IT'S ALL set! I have issued a challenge to Stan Hansen to hit me with his famed lariat. I believe, after speaking at length with Ivan Putski, there's no way Hansen can land his crippling move on me.

Putski, who was recently injured by Hansen's vicious maneuver, told me, "He may have caught me with the lariat once, but never again. I know how to avoid it now, as you'll see the next time we meet." When I told Hansen I knew how to avoid it, he just laughed and said, "Sure you can avoid it—by staying several miles away! Once you climb through those ropes, Nosey (he calls me "Nosey" ever since I found out he lost to Ricky Martel in nine seconds down south), I'm gonna take your head off." "We'll see about that!

Just got back from a week's vacation in Barbados with Mil Mascaras. It was truly a strange feeling, seeing him without his mask. It was the first time I had ever seen him without his trademark. He is an amazing all-around athlete, and I was amazed by his swimming, diving, and tennis prowess. He has to be one of the world's greatest all-around athletes.

While on the subject of unmasked wrestlers, I was dying to find out for sure who The Executioners are. After a recent match, I hid out in an empty dressing room, popping my head out every few minutes. I watched everybody who walked into their dressing room and I watched everybody who walked out. When two men walked out who I didn't see walk in, I knew I had unquestionably come across the identity of the WWWF tag team champions! However, I was just a bit too slow in ducking my head out of view, and was spotted by The Executioners. They knew what I was up to, and before I could run, they trapped me in the room. They told me they'd rearrange my face in a way that my best friends couldn't tell it was me if I print their identities. I'm having the proper authorities check out their threat. I just take it with a grain of salt.

Heard through the almighty (Continued on page 52)

"I CAN SHOW YOU EXACTLY HOW TO ...

### GETA \$3000 RAISE TOMORROW!

Have you resigned yourself to getting along on one modest raise a year? Then I'd like to tell you about an incredible, foolproof system for getting bigger raises more often. This system is so powerful I personally guarantee it'll get you the raise you want more than nine times out of ten!

This system has nothing to do with when you got your last raise, or whether you even deserve a raise. No, this is a whole new system for presenting yourself with total command and assurance a system that is so absolutely convincing there is simply no way your boss can refuse you. He will literally feel compelled to give you a raise.

To show you how incredibly effective my system is all you have to do is look at me. I don't particularly like to talk about it, but ten years ago I was one of the biggest losers the world had ever seen. Shy, unaggressive, stuck in a job that paid a lousy eighty-five dollars a week. I wasn't bad at my work, but I was so quiet and unassertive hardly anyone in the company knew I existed. Then, almost by accident, I came across

a whole new system for getting raises. A system that is so incredibly dynamic it instantly put me on the map with all of the people I worked for. The rest is history.

Today I earn over \$125,000 a year. During the last ten years I've had over 37 raises. That averages out to 3.7 raises a year. To be honest, some of them have been for as little as \$500. But most have been around \$2,000 and some have been for as much as \$10,000.

Now, at the age of thirty-three, I am a major stockholder and vice-president with one of America's largest and bestknown communications corporations. I have several hundred thousand dollars in blue-chip investments and own a stable of fine cars including the beautiful antique Rolls Royce you see above.

The irony of all this is I'm not one bit smarter or more talented than any of the people I work with. (Some of them have done a lot more for the company than I have.) But while they've been inching along, often on less than one raise a year, I've been getting one big salary increase after another. Almost at the rate of four times a year! And now I'm going to show you exactly how you can do the same. I've turned my fool-proof raise-getting system into a special executive report called HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT! This system is so easy to master you can put it to work for you the very same day you get it.

You don't have to be buddies with the boss. You don't have to be a company Super-star. You don't have to be special in any way. You simply walk into your supervisor's



"Most people sit around hoping for more money. I can show you how to go in and get the raise you want now. I personally guarantee it!"

office, follow the simple program laid out for you in your report, and you'll get the raise you want as easy as that. There is simply no way your boss can refuse you. What's more, this amazing raisegetting system will soon have your boss looking at you in a whole new light. No matter what your career has been like up until now, your boss will instantly begin thinking of you as a real go-getter, someone who is "going places" with the company.

If you want to start getting big, fat, juicy raises - up to three and four times a year - I suggest you reserve your copy of HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT

right now.

It costs only ten dollars (postage, handling, taxes included). And it comes with my personal guarantee that it'll help you get a sub-stantial raise within thirty days of you're receiving it. If it doesn't, or if you're unhappy with it in any way (even if it's already helped you get a raise) just return it for a complete and immediate refund No questions asked.

That's how absolutely certain I am this foolproof system will turn

you into an expert raise-getter, someone who decides exactly how much money they want to be making and then goes in and gets it. Remember, HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT costs only ten dollars and it's fully guaranteed. So you have absolutely nothing to lose and literally thousands upon thousands of dollars to gain IMMEDIATELY! So send for HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT today. And start making the kind of money

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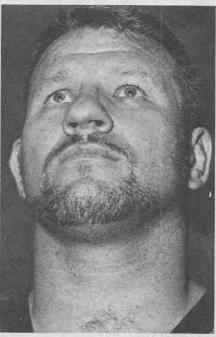
MIL MASCARAS



**GREG VALENTINE** 

IL MASCARAS will make his decision any day now as to which lucky fan wins our "Win A Mil Mascaras Mask" contest. The response, one unequaled in the history of this magazine, has been overwhelming. We'll announce the winner in our next issue. And because of your fantastic enthusiasm, there will be many more contests in future issues.

The ANDERSON BROTHERS regained their NWA tag team belts from DINO BRAVO and TIM WOODS . . . GREG VALENTINE is wrestling according to the rulebook in Florida. We bet that won't last too



WALDO VON ERICH

long...NIKOLAI VOLKOFF back in the WWWF mat wars...WALDO VON ERICH feuding with the notorious SHEIK...Polish star BEPPO BONNET is gunning for ROCK HUNTER and his army.

VERNE GAGNE refereed the classic St. Louis brawl between NWA champion TERRY FUNK and former champion GENE KINISKI. Terry retained his laurels in a match Gagne called, "One of the greatest I've ever witnessed" . . . KILLER KRUPP eying BOB BACKLUND and Bob's Missouri state honors . . . Rumor mill has it AWA champion NICK BOCKWINKLE and manager BOBBY HEENAN are not getting along too well. Our spies are busy trying to get to the bottom of this rumor and hope to have exclusive details in an upcoming issue . . . IVAN PUTSKI promises to "send SCANDOR AKBAR back to the Middle east in a pine box!" . . . Prince MAIVIA is no longer a Prince. He's now hailed in his native Samoa as a Chief. Congratulations, Peter!

CRUSHER VERDU won the new Los Angeles championship and BUTCHER VACHON is planning to strip that belt from Verdu's waist



KILLER KRUPP



**IVAN PUTSKI** 

## N'NEWS

Bill Apter reporting...



KING CURTIS

soon . . . DON MURACO says, "PAT PATTERSON is the most overrated bum I've ever wrestled!" . . . KING CURTIS is teaming with JACK BRISCO while at war with THE ASSASSIN, PAK SONG and THE MISSOURI MAULER . . . BUGSY McGRAW has mysteriously vanished . . . DOS CARAS, Mil Mascaras' brother, is busy toppling adversaries in Mexico . . . EDOUARD CARPENTIER keeping activities' confined to Canadian mats . . . LOU ALBANO claims he's "wrestling's wealthiest and most successful manager!"



LOU ALBANO



HANK JAMES

BORIS MALENKO keeping THE MONGOLS in tip-top shape, training them for future title matches in the mid-Atlantic region . . . WAHOO McDANIEL out of the hospital, and back on a full schedule. His main mission now is to end the career of RIC FLAIR ... PAMPERO FIRPO on a whirlwind tour of Latin American countries . . . GOLIATH and BLACK GORDMAN making life miserable for Texas 'rasslers as they invade Houston and Dallas . . . HANK JAMES is now a popular mat idol in Michigan . . . FRED BLASSIE trying to get his newest protege from behind the iron curtain into the United States. Red tape is holding things up, but Blassie hopes to have his newest charge here soon . . . WWWF king BRUNO SAMMAR-TINO says, "I'm feeling great and I'm ready to resume a full schedule" . BLACKJACK MULLIGAN and ANGELO MOSCA tag teaming and

STAN STASIAK and DICK SLATER becoming friendly. There is a chance you may see them join forces in the near future. Slater would have to change his ways drastically to team with Stan. Dick's fans hope they won't see this union . . . HAYSTACKS CALHOUN doing

proving to be a great duo.



**DICK SLATER** 

extra duty as a guest referee in WWWF territory . . . THE MON-GOLIAN STOMPER had his "loaded" boot swiped by FRITZ VON ERICH. Fritz beat him to a bloody pulp with it . . . DUSTY RHODES vacationing for a few weeks-in a Florida gym! He's getting in tip-top shape for his next title clash against Terry Funk . . . PEZ WHEATLEY thinks he can handle BULLDOG BROWER. Bulldog says, "I'd wipe that punk out in less than two minutes!"...TONY MARINO trying to get a clearcut win over KARL VON SHOTZ, a man he hates deeply. Tony says, "He's one of the few wrestlers I've ever come up against whose career I'd love to end! I hate him with an undying passion!"

# NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS

#### GEORGIA GEMS By Angela Mahesh

ARK LEWIN ACCEPTED an unusual double match. First he was signed to take on Gary Hart — a match with a five minute time limit. Then he would go on to wrestle Hart's protege, The Spoiler.

The first contest was a brutal one, with all rules being tossed out the window. It went the distance.

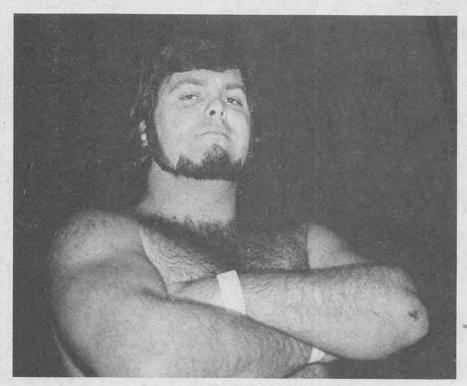
Spoiler entered the ring immediately trying to get the jump on Mark. But Mark was ready, and he smashed the masked man. The bell rang and it became a fistic confrontation. In a few minutes both had battered each other bloody. Then Mark took charge.

Hart climbed into the ring, snuck up behind Mark, and began choking him with a rope. The referee tried to stop it, but Hart shoved him out of the way. Lewin crumpled to the canvas as Spoiler helped Gary tighten the rope. Mr. Wrestling II came in to help Lewin. Hart and Spoiler fled from the ring, only to return with a chair. Before they could get Mr. Wrestling II, he disarmed then and bashed the chair over their heads and sent them running back to the dressing room.

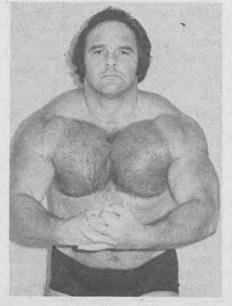
#### TENNESSEE TERROR By Kirk Welch

A boxing match headlined the Memphis Coliseum. The participants were Jerry Lawler and Rocky Johnson. It was to go for 15 three-minute rounds. Things were fairly even in rounds one and two, but Lawler was knocked down once in each of the next three rounds.

At the start of round six, Sam Bass, Lawler's manager, gave Jerry a drink of water. Lawler didn't spit the water for a moment—but then it became clear what he had in mind. He spit the mouthful of water in Rocky's face, surprising him. Then Jerry pulled out a



Jerry Lawler (above) proved once again he fights unfair during a boxing exhibition against Rocky Johnson. Mark Lewin (below left) proved his courage by challenging Playboy Gary Hart (below right) and Mongolian Stomper to separate bouts on the same night!









Above: After taking a good deal of tough punishment, raging Pat Patterson comes back strong against a Masked Invader #1. Pat's attack gave the masked grappler his worst beating to date! Left: Dutch Savage finally got his long awaited bout with Jesse Ventura. but came very close to wishing he hadn't! Savage actually lost the bout until the decision was reversed!

weapon and cut Rocky's face to shreds. Rocky was blinded by his own blood and the referee stopped the action and awarded the match to Jerry. Next step—Jerry wants to box Muhammad Ali!

#### GULF COAST NEWS By Dave Mims

Dothan, Alabama, was the site of a rematch for the NWA title as Terry Funk, the current champion, took on the former king, Jack Brisco.

Jack dominated the early action, dazzling Funk with armdrags and leglocks. Terry was able to turn things around after a while and lock Jack in the spinning toe hold. Jack reversed the maneuver and put Terry in the figure-four leglock. Terry grabbed onto the ropes and Jack had to release the grip.

Terry grabbed Jack by the arm and whipped him across the ring. Jack collided with the referee—knocking the official out and himself out of the ring. Jack didn't regain his senses before the referee did and he was counted out. Funk retained his title to the dismay of the many Brisco fans in attendance.

#### WASHINGTON WRESTLING By Jeffery T. Somsak

Dutch Savage finally had his longawaited match against Jesse Ventura. Ventura wanted the match also, so he could try to win Savage's Northwestern Championship.

Ventura took the first fall with a cradle, but Dutch evened things up, taking a quick second fall. The final stanza was a real brawl. Savage opened a cut on Jesse's head. Then he

rammed Ventura's head into the steel ringposts. But Jesse went berserk and made Savage a bloody mess. Finally Jesse locked Savage in his patented "super full nelson" and Dutch quit! The referee told Jesse to release the hold, but he refused. After repeatedly refusing to listen to the referee, the decision was reversed and Savage retained his title.

#### CALIFORNIA CALLING By Larry Barnhizer

Pat Patterson met Invader #1 in a two out of three fall match at the Sacramento TV studio. At the sound of the bell the masked man jumped Pat. He kicked and slugged Pat repeatedly, then tossed him out of the ring. Then he grabbed Pat by the hair as he was trying to re-enter the ring and smashed his head on the steel ringpost.

That was all the punishment Pat allowed himself to absorb. He went wild and began punching the masked man. Kicks and elbow smashes went into the ingredients of The Invader's worst beating to date. Pat clamped on his figure-four leglock and Invader gave in, ending the first fall. But Pat refused to release the hold. Finally he did, but Invader was in such poor shape he was unable to continue for the rest of the match.

At the Olympic Roddy Piper stopped Mr. Mexico #2... Crusher Verdu and Frank Monte toppled Porkchop and Sal Lothario... Chavo Guerrero and Butcher Vachon won over The Alaskan and Don "Fonzo" Fargo.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA ACTION By Chris Gilbert

Paul Jones tried to get the mid-Atlantic title away from his archenemy, Ric Flair.

The match was even for about 20 minutes. Then Paul found his chance to get Ric Flair in the Indian Death lock. Flair, being close to the ropes, grabbed the bottom strand as soon as Paul put the lock on. He was forced to release the hold.

Ric rose to his feet and he began trading blows with Jones. Both took the battle outside the ropes and onto the ring apron. Paul hit Flair so hard it knocked him back into the ring. The referee had been counting them out all this time. Flair was in the ring by the count of nine and Paul didn't get back in time. It could be said Paul won the match for Flair when he knocked him back into the ring.









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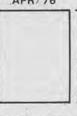


















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# By Dan Shocket



Terry Funk—He is champion of the National Wrestling Alliance. He has said many times he'd like to have a "one champion" system.

HE INTEGRITY OF wrestling has been smeared long enough. As long as there are three champions, this sport will never have the honor it so richly deserves. The time has come for the three associations to behave like adults. settle their differences, and have a single championship for wrestling.

Every sport needs a champion, a mark of excellence against which others can be compared. Competition is senseless without a goal. The quest to be champion over all spurs the best athletes to exceed themselves to greatness beyond their abilities. Regional

titles lack the excitement of the

single championship.

A title should mean one person has proven himself better than any other man in the sport. Today, wrestling suffers under the voke of split championships. It's impossible for one man to consider himself the

best in his sport. No matter what he does, no man can face all the competition. He is forbidden to take on the leading contenders of the other divisions. So he can't claim to be the best in the world.

This is an outrage. Promoters and commissioners should try to work out some way to allow the three major champions to wrestle for a single title-the heavyweight wrestling championship of the world. The athletes who sacrifice their lives for this sport deserve the chance to be the best without question.

While the athletes suffer, so do the fans and the sport. Each fan deserves the right to see the man who is unquestionably the best defending his reputation. Today, the fans are deprived of this most important spectacle. Instead, they can only wonder what would happen if the sport were unified.

Everyone I speak with is sick and tired of this situation. In a world where people of all races, religions, and creed are learning to sit down and discuss differences, wrestling associations still refuse to talk to each other. This puts them back with the Neanderthal man, each with his own territory and afraid to venture past its boundary. As far as wrestling associations care, millions of years of civilization

never happened.

History will be the real loser in this sorrowful situation. How can future generations be expected to believe today's champions were great if the titleholders never ruled more than one-third of the sport? When most of the sport never faced the champion, it's difficult to believe he can be considered the best of his time.

Chances are, fifty years from now Bruno Sammartino will be looked upon as a minor grappler. The fans will only take into account his small kingdom and not appreciate his great skills. Other present champions will suffer similar fates. The commissions have stolen today's champions' immortality, perhaps the greatest threat of all.

The solution is so simple. All the commissioners have to do is sit down and iron out their differences. They've been unable to reach an agreement for almost two decades!



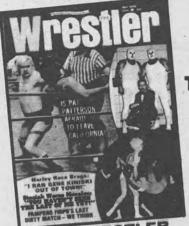
Bruno Sammartino-Champion of the World Wide Wrestling Federation. We believe "one champion" would suit Bruno.

Such diplomatic incompetance cannot be tolerated.

It's about time the wrestlers decided to look out for their own glory. They should demand the commissioners get together and form one wrestling union, indivisible. Professional grapplers have too long tolerated the intolerable.

Wrestlers must realize they are (Continued on page 60)

# WRESTLING'S CREATEST SUBSCRIPTION



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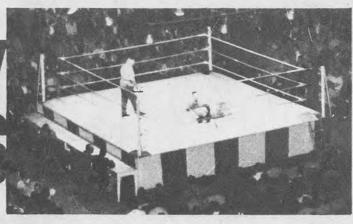
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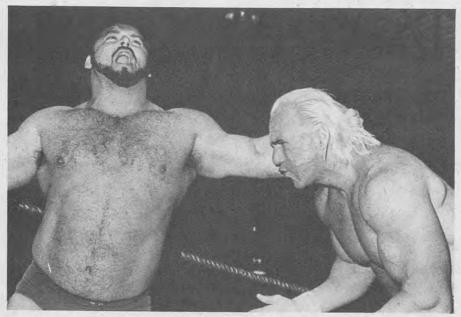
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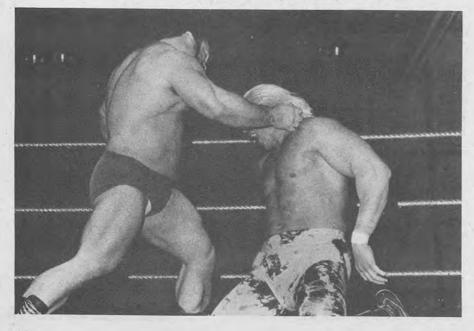
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# SINCERELY





As hard as he tries, Ivan Putski cannot win a clear-cut victory over Superstar Billy Graham (above and below). Reader John Bennett wrote in to say that if the two men wrestled again, all Ivan would need to win is a little bit of his famous "Polish Power." But will that be enough for Putski to defeat this infamous, powerful man?



#### POLISH POWER CONQUERS

I just have to say that I love your new look to INSIDE WRESTLING, All of the new columns are terrific. I also like the new Official Wrestling Ratings, in which you show pictures of the best men in each association. In addition, I think all your stories are excellent.

I have just read "Ivan Putski Will Never Defeat Superstar" (INSIDE WRESTLING/August 1976) for the fifth time, and I would like to make some comments about it. You say that all Putski has for Superstar is hatred. Well, that is all any fan in his right mind has for Graham. Ivan Putski is my favorite wrestler, and he is one of the most powerful men in the sport. Ivan may not be able to beat Superstar, but then I know Superstar can never defeat Ivan. If Putski and Billy ever decide to wrestle each other again, I know all Ivan will need is a little bit of Polish Power to win.

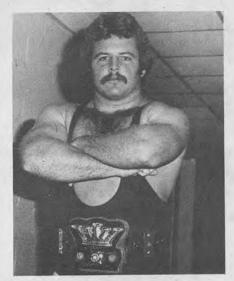
> JOHN BENNETT Shaker Heights, Ohio

#### MIKE IS GREAT

I am writing this letter about "The Story Mike Graham Begged Us Not to Tell" (INSIDE WRESTLING/August 1976). I am a 22-year-old wrestling fan, and I can recall seeing Jerry and Eddie Graham when they were a team. I may have been young then, but I can remember how dirty they wrestled.

Now I read the article about how Mike Graham is not being given any chances at the title just because his name is Graham. He says they are afraid he will flip out and become dirty.

I live in New-York and have seen Mike wrestle on television a lot. And I feel Mike is a great wrestler. At times he does get rough, but that is only when the other wrestler gets real dirty.



New York reader Ronald Culhane writes in to say he thinks Mike Graham (above) is a tremendous wrestler and should be given a shot at a championship title.

I see no reason why Mike Graham should not get title shots.

Fans who have not seen Mike Graham wrestle may picture him as a real mean and dirty wrestler. But once they see him wrestle, they will see he is a really excellent grappler. Even Eddie Graham has turned over a new leaf.

RONALD CULHANE New York, N.Y.

#### BILLY'S THE BEST

I really liked your article about "Billy Graham's 10 Darkest Secrets" (INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1976). I read it over and over. It really proved what a great person Billy really is.

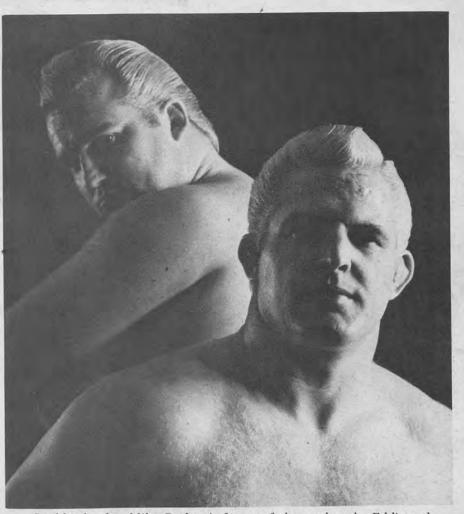
I wish you would print more articles like this about him. Billy Graham is one of the best wrestlers in the world. He deserves a bigger section in INSIDE WRESTLING for all his millions of fans. Thank you, very much.

ELAINE McNALLY Tulsa, Okla.

#### A SMASH HIT

Congratulations on a fine and excellent job! Your INSIDE WRES-TLING/July 1976 issue was a smash. I really liked the stories on "Billy Graham's 10 Darkest Secrets" and "The One Man Who Scares Terry Funk to Death." It was very surprising to discover Superstar Graham was afraid of cage and tag team matches, since he is always so brutal.

I was really shocked to read how rookie Chavo Guerrero makes NWA champion Terry Funk walk in fear. I personally enjoyed the section, "Can You Identify These Famous Stars?" I



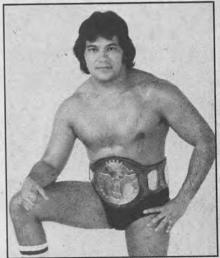
Could it be that Mike Graham's famous father and uncle, Eddie and Jerry Graham (above), are standing in the way of Mike's success? The young man thinks this is possible. NWA champion Terry Funk (below left) and young sensation Chavo Guerrero (below right) are still engaged in a bitter feud. It seems that Terry cannot win a clear-cut victory over Chavo, though he has tried to many times.



guessed Lou Albano, King Curtis, Cyclone Negro, Fred Blassie, and Red Bastien correctly.

Once again, congratulations on a fabulous, dynamic magazine. Keep up the good job!

DWIGHT DURAN San Diego, Calif.



#### IS IT BRUNO'S FAULT?

l just finished reading "Bruno Blasts . . . I'm Not a Dirty Wrestler" (IN-SIDE WRESTLING/August 1976) for the 10th time. After realizing the characters Bruno must face—Superstar Graham, Ivan Koloff, Ernie Ladd, (Continued on page 54)



Wrestling's Shocking Shocking Mystery:

# HARLEY RACE CANNOT DEFEAT A MAI NAMED



A vise-like headlock by Jerry Brisco has Race helpless. Race appeared not to be his aggressive self in his match against Jerry, a man he's wrestled before.

PHOTOS BY CHIP MAXWELL

NOTHER MATCH, another failure. Once again, Harley Race had battled against a Brisco. Once again, he'd failed to win. Race lay back on the training table, staring into space and ignoring reporters' questions.

"Why were you so cautious against Jerry Brisco?" was the question all the reporters asked. It was a question Harley wished he could answer.

He could have won the match. Staring at the ceiling, he saw just how it should have happened. Brisco was against the ropes and Harley barrelled into him. Race felt Jerry's legs go weak. He knew he could win the bout then and there. All it would take would be a little risk. Against anyone but a Brisco, Race wouldn't even have considered the risk. Against a Brisco, he was terrified to take the slightest

Why is Harley Race doomed whenever he wrestles a man named Brisco? What powers do these two brothers hold over him. If Harley ever hopes to conquer a Brisco, first he must conquer himself!

Harley is backdropped by Jack Brisco the night Jack won the NWA title from him. Race now uses hypnosis whenever he comes up against a Brisco.

chance.

He'd once taken a risk against a Brisco. Harley was then NWA champion of the world, monarch over all he surveyed. He was wrestling challenger Jack Brisco. Race was confident of victory. Recklessly, he made his bid to win the match. Three seconds later, he was the exchamp, dethroned by the challenger. Humiliated by a Brisco, Race walked out of the arena a broken man.

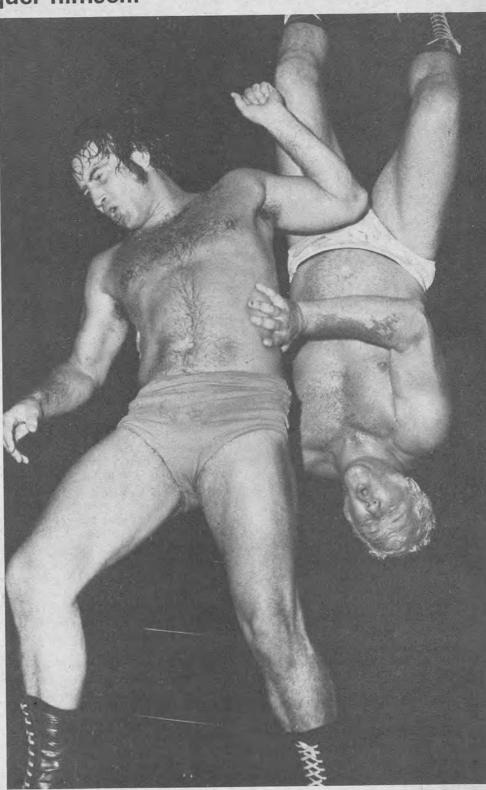
There is no need to document the hell Race endured for the next few weeks. A distraught human being does things for which he shouldn't be blamed. Still, losing the championship did permanent damage to Race's soul.

Against almost everyone, Race became a man interested only in torture. Before his loss, he would punish an opponent just enough to win. After Brisco defeated him, Harley prolonged matches so he could make his foe suffer more and more.

Race also became known for his insane recklessness. Men who were once his tag team partners often tell Harley Race stories, tales of hysterical maneuvers which left them defenseless and Race warring strangely on his own. Eventually, only the most savage rulebreakers would dare to have Harley for a partner. Depending on Race was the same as having your head handed to you.

However, there were two exceptions to this mad marauding. When Harley faced either Jack or Jerry Brisco, Race grew wary. He held back, failing to follow up his advantages. And he never won a match against them.

Naturally, Harley recognized what was happening to him. He realized his losing the title to Jack Brisco had made him lose control. Against wrestlers other than the



Briscos, Harley managed to restrain himself. He grew less sloppy and more cunning. Gone was the dangerous recklessness which had cost him so many victories. However, against the Briscos he was still overly cautious. Match after match, Harley tried and failed to become aggressive. Friends tried (Continued on page 56)

# HAS PAUL JONES





Revelling in his savage fury, Ric flair joyously tortures Paul Jones' leg (left), works on Jones' arm (above) and then cruelly stomps on Paul's head (right) to insure the match is going to be his in the end.

PAUL JONES SAT quietly in a corner of his dressing room, trying to calm down. He had just been defeated by Ric Flair., He was upset—that is understandable. But there was something else wrong.

It took many minutes for Jones to compose himself. He would make an attempt to speak, but no words would come. He seemed to be on the verge of crying. It was difficult for him to accept this defeat. Finally, the words began to flow.

"You know," he began, "I've beaten that punk before. By all rights, I should have beaten him tonight. I just couldn't do it. Just when I thought I had him, I would back down. I wouldn't follow through on a maneuver. I just couldn't do anything right.

"Now I know I shouldn't be upset about one bad night. Normally, I would just say I had an off night and forget about it. But these are not normal times. Something's changed. I've changed.

"You see, I was doing really well until Blackjack Mulligan challenged me for the U.S. title. In that match, everything went wrong. A referee was almost killed, and I could do nothing to stop it. And, I lost my title to Mulligan.

"Since that time, things have been going terribly. I've had several battles against Angelo Mosca, and I've not been able to win a clear-cut victory. And tonight, against that punk Ric Flair, I lost. Everything's wrong. Nothing is going right for me."

Paul sat quietly for a few more minutes, not saying a word. He seemed to be deep in thought, as if he were searching all corners of his mind for a possible explanation for the rut in which he found himself. He could find no answers.

Indeed, at first glance there seemed to be no logical explanation for the situation Paul was in. No one has ever doubted the talents or greatness of Paul Jones. He has legions of fans everywhere he goes. But for some reason, on this night, Jones could not use those talents to his advantage.

In the match against Flair, it seemed as if Jones was terrified to use his most effective moves against his blond opponent. Paul held control of the match for a few short periods, but for the most part, Ric dominated the action.

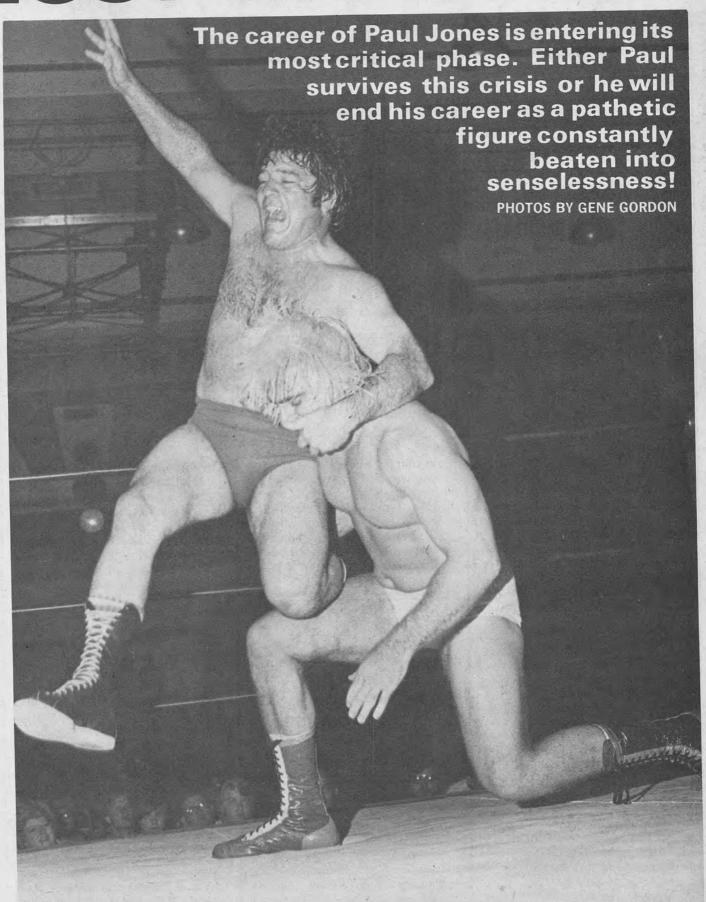


It seemed as if Paul could not sustain any action. And whenever Flair initiated a maneuver, Jones would back away, rather than combat the tactic. It was a very different kind of wrestling display for Paul.

"Sometimes," Paul confessed, "I think I've lost any desire to keep on wrestling. There comes a point in time when a man has to face up to the facts before him. Things are not going too well for me. This rut I'm in now could cause my downfall. It might mean it's time to call it a career.

(Continued on page 50)

# LOST HIS GUTS?



## STAN HANSEN: "CRIPPLING BRI WAS THE EASIEST I I'VE EVER DONE!

E'S ONE OF the most vicious wrestlers ever to emerge from the state of Texas. A former football player for the San Diego Chargers, he is bigger and stronger than most wrestlers. Winning several regional titles is considered a bore to him since busting Bruno Sammartino's neck with his dreaded "lariat" hold. He plans to keep breaking necks until he decides to retire. He is the "Bounty Hunter," Stan Hansen.

- Q: Welcome to the "Hotseat," Stan.
- A: It's a pleasure being here.
- Q: What are your vital statistics?
- A: I'm 6-5, 312 pounds.
- Q: How did you get into pro wrestling?
- A: I was playin' football with the San Diego Chargers. The Funk family came to see me several times and spotted some potential in me. They offered a deal for me to turn pro that I couldn't refuse. The dough was just too much for me to say no.
- Q: So the step was strictly for money?
- A: That's right. I probably would have stayed in football if the money in wrestling wasn't so good.
- Q: Since the Funks were instrumental

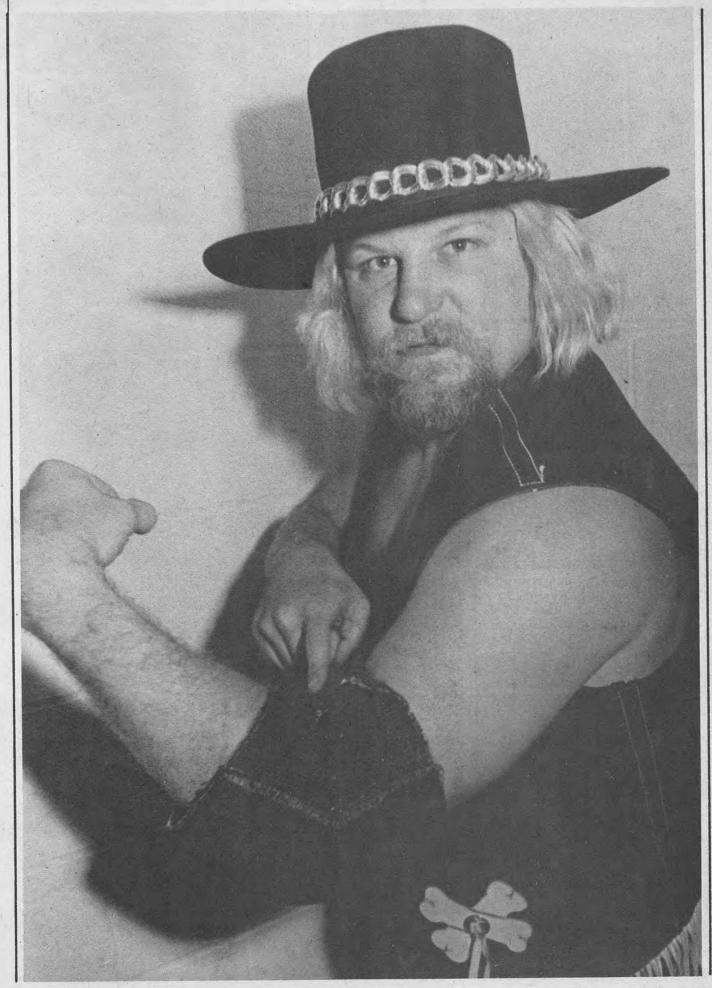
- in your becoming a wrestler, would A: Wait a minute! I did not lose it to you wrestle Terry or Dory Jr?
- A: Yes. I'm a pro. I wrestle anyone. I don't give a damn who it is. It's just a business relationship with the Funks. I'm a loner. I don't like to get too close to anyone because that person could by my next opponent.

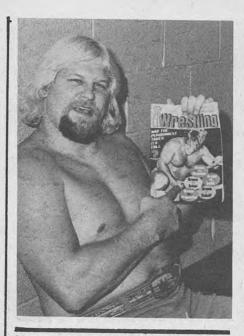
66 I did not lose the Texas title to Rocky Johnson! It was stolen from me!

99

- Q: Do you feel you've made great progress since you started?
- A: I've been wrestling only three years and today I'm on top of the heap. I've made it.
- Q: Last year you held the Texas title. You lost it to Rocky Johnson. Did you . . .

- Johnson. The title was stolen from
- Q: You don't expect us to believe that, do vou?
- A: It's true. The referee and the promoters in Houston are really good friends with Rocky Johnson. Even the Funks get bad decisions in Houston.
- O: So you're saying there's a conspiracy against you and the Funks there?
- A: No question about it. It's been going on for many years. The fans are aware of it. As a matter of fact, the promoter, Paul Boesch, was in Johnson's corner the night the title was swiped from me.
- O: If you lost—clearly—would you admit it?
- A: Look. In athletics one must learn to accept a loss gracefully. I have never lost. Never!
- Q: It was in Texas that Fred Blassie saw you and the hold you call the "lariat." Was this hold the reason he brought you to the WWWF area?
- A: Yes. I learned that move in football. We called it a "clothesline."





Blassie put up cold cash to get me to come here to get his revenge.

99

It could rip someone's head off if done correctly. In wrestling I put an elbow pad over the elbow area to protect my arm since my arm takes a tremendous amount of pressure from my opponents' heads.

Q: During a television interview, an announcer hit the elbow pad and a few dozen coins fell out. What's your side of the story?

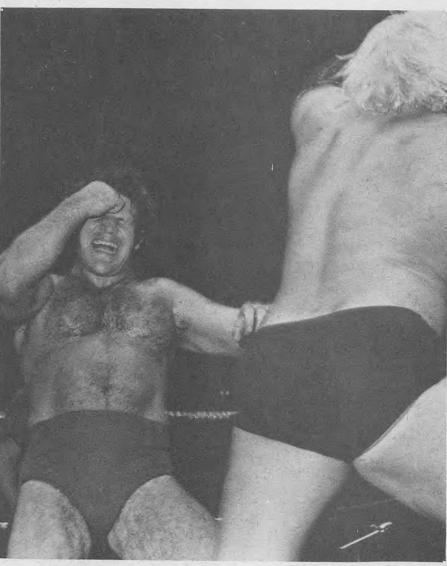
A: Bull! That TV announcer had those coins in his hand and he tossed them on the floor when he hit the elbow pad just to make me look guility after I busted Dominic DeNucci's head open.

Q: We can't believe that.

A: I don't care if you don't believe it.

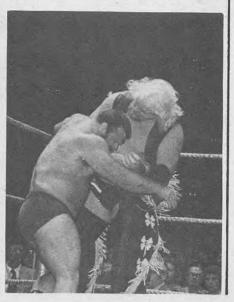
Q: Of course by now everyone knows you broke Bruno Sammartino's neck with the lariat. Are you proud of this?

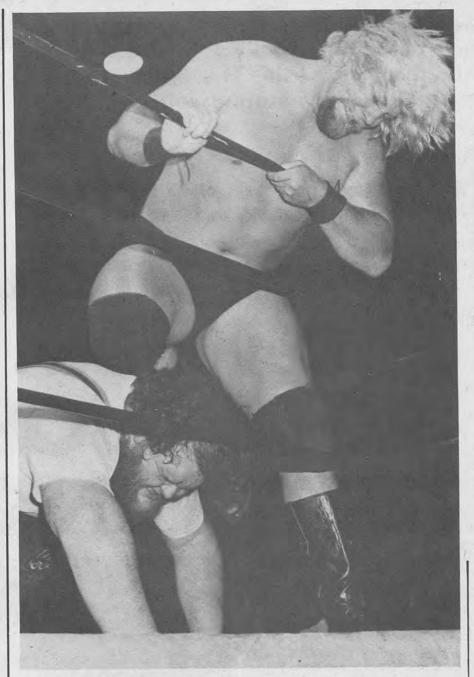
A: Yes sir. Breakin' Bruno's neck was the easiest thing I've ever done. I was paid by Mr. Fred Blassie to come east for one reason—to get revenge for him. People don't





Hansen displays a copy of the June INSIDE WRESTLING (above left), claiming he punished Bruno more than anyone. His "lariat" breaks Bruno's neck (above). Stan gets the jump on Ivan Putski (left and below), handing Ivan a merciless and brutal beating.





The huge Chris Taylor falls to Hansen during Stan's stay in Houston, Texas. It was there that he won the prestigious Texas state title, then lost it months later to Rocky Johnson. As soon as he "finishes" some more of the bums back east," Stan says, "I hope to go back to Texas and maybe go to Florida to war against fat Dusty Rhodes."

realize that Mr. Blassie has just | one good eye now. He was jumped in an alley and blinded by Sammartino, Ivan Putski, and some other of their kind.

- Q: You mean you really believe Blassie's story?
- A: Why the hell not? He put up cold cash to get me to come here to get his revenge. Only a man that bitter would pay a price like he did for my services.
- Q: So you're a bounty hunter.
- A: That's right. That is my nickname. And I've gotten several big bonuses A: To do whatever Mr. Blassie says—

from Blassie for gettin' rid of Bruno and Putski.

- Q: Did he also pay you to win Bruno's belt?
- A: Yes, he did.
- O: Why don't you have it?
- A: That's a good question. The Yankees don't want a Texan for their champion, so they pulled out some technical rules and Bruno got to keep the belt. But I beat him worse than he's ever been beaten
- Q: What are your future plans?

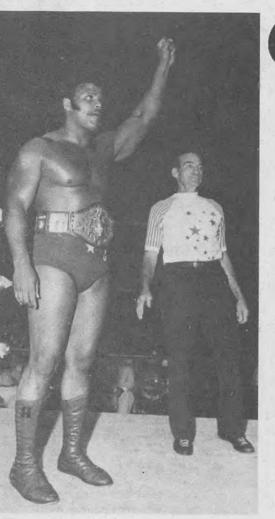


I am the American Dream-not Dusty Rhodes! Kids should look up to me, not him.

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- as long as he keeps the dough comin' in.
- O: Is there anyone in particular you'd like to get at next?
- A: Yeah, Dusty Rhodes.
- O: Why?
- A: He's a phony piece of propaganda. I am the American Dream-not him. I'm the youth of America. I'm a great athlete. Kids should look up to me-not him.
- O: Would you try to cripple him?
- A: You bet. Any man who is not a credit to the sport, like Rhodes, Sammartino, Putski and their kind, deserve to be forced out of the sport forever.
- Q: Don't you think your way of sportsmanship isn't one kids should follow?
- A: Kids should learn to be rough and tough. Following images like Sammartino makes them weak.
- O: And you're the perfect example?
- A: You are so right.
- Q: We're about just out of time. Thank you for your time, Stan.
- A: You're welcome. I'm sure my fans appreciate it too.

This is a story sure to blow the lid off of professional wrestling. We have proof that Rocky Johnson defeated Terry Funk for the NWA title. The reasons why Rocky didn't get the belt will astound you!



# Our Exclusive Investigation Reveals... ROCKY JOH TERRY FUNK'

PHOTOS BY JIM CALDWELL

Rocky Johnson waves to the fans with the Texas championship belt around his waist (left).
Our research reveals he should also have the NWA championship!

S OMETHING SEEMED VERY wrong.

Everyone had just seen Terry Funk barely manage to hold on to his NWA championship in a match against Texas state champion Rocky Johnson. Terry had barely kept his belt, but he had been saved — literally — by the bell.

Something seemed out of place with this whole match, as if time had suddenly become Rocky Johnson's enemy. It had.

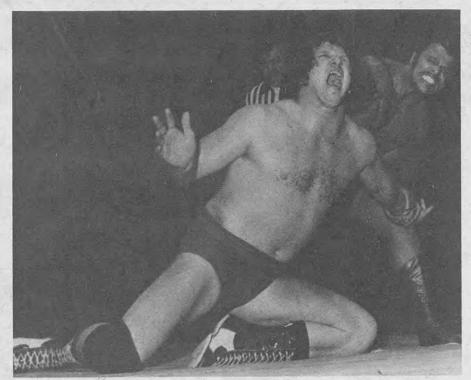
Many of those present at the match that night had a gut feeling something was out of joint. They need not have looked any further than the watches on their wrists to find out what was wrong.

Knowing this would be one of the most important matches of the year, INSIDE WRESTLING sent a special motion picture camera crew to film the battle. The filmed results done by this crew proved to be a key piece of evidence in the ensuing investigation.

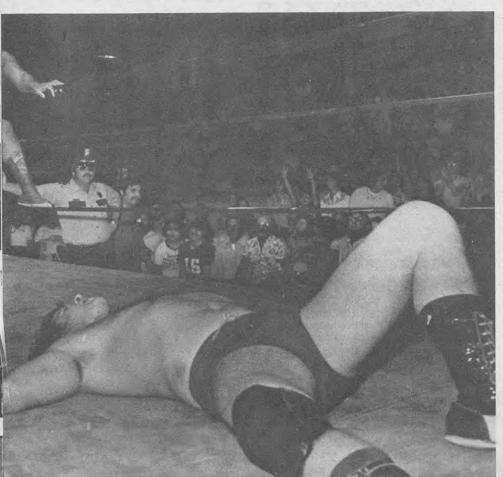
From the beginning, this match was destined to be controversial. When contracts were being negotiated between Funk and Johnson, Terry insisted he be allowed to bring in his own timekeeper. This request seemed odd at best, and it was suspect in most people's minds. Yet for some unknown reason, Rocky Johnson agreed to this stipulation.

That was Rocky's biggest mistake.





## NSON WON S NWA TITLE!



Terry screams in agony when he is captured in a merciless and perfectly executed armlock late in the match. Johnson uses all his strength in this maneuver.

Minutes after the match between Funk and Johnson was completed, our offices were flooded with calls, asking us to initiate an impartial investigation into the match, which we did. The films of the match were rushed into processing. Accounts were taken from several spectators. Dozens of phone calls were made to the NWA, along with countless interviews with top officials of the alliance.

Our investigation came to one single conclusion: Rocky Johnson should have won Terry Funk's NWA title!

Terry did not want to wrestle against Rocky Johnson. In previous encounters, Rocky had proven himself to be a more worthy opponent for Funk. Most of their matches had gone to the one hour time limit. If one man was in a position to take Terry's belt away, that man was Rocky Johnson.

So Funk had to do something to ensure this match would be different. Besides insisting on having his own timekeeper at the match, he also demanded the battle be lengthened to a time limit of 90 minutes. Terry figured there would be no possible way Johnson could last that long. His calculations were inaccurate.

Rocky proved once again he knew what it took to give Terry Funk a run for his money. An effective body-slam and cradle won the first fall for Johnson. It also left Terry slightly dazed. He lay on the canvas for several seconds before action resumed for the second fall.

Terry was luckier during the second fall. A brilliant display of wrestling maneuvers confused the challenger, and Funk was able to throw him out of the ring. Rocky tried to climb back in, but was counted out after 10 seconds. The second fall was awarded to Terry.

Neither man wanted to lose the third fall. For quite a length of time, (Continued on page 58)

Dazed, Terry Funk lies on the canvas after losing the first fall to Rocky Johnson. Many thought Terry would never find enough strength to continue.

# TOPWRESTLE TOPWRESTLE VOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question which concerns all of wrestling? Well, each month in INSIDE WRESTLING, the sport's greatest stars will answer a question sent in by a reader. If you wish to have your question answered by the stars, send it to: ASK THE STARS, INSIDE WRESTLING, Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

The "Question of the Month" is:

"What type of injury do you fear the most?"

Submitted by: Jason Cooke; San Francisco, California



#### BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"I have very little to fear from any of my opponents. However, I do not believe I could survive another injury to my neck. That is one type of injury I would like to avoid."



#### SAILOR ART THOMAS

"The one type of injury I am really afraid of is a shoulder separation. This happened to me once, and the pain was unbearable. I never want to go through an experience like that again!"



#### **DEAN HO**

"A crushed elbow is one injury I could not stand to have. Since I use my elbow a lot during matches, if it were broken or smashed, I would not be able to use my best tactics."



#### SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

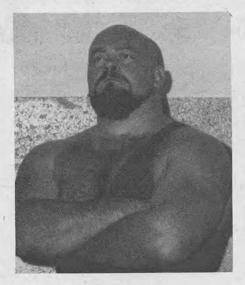
"The only kind of injury I fear, daddy, is anything that could mark up this beautiful face of mine. When you have perfect features like me, you have to protect them!"

# RS'ANSWER OF THE MONTH



#### **JERRY BRISCO**

"I would hate to tear my Achilles tendon. An injury like that would permanently cripple me, and would force me to retire from wrestling. It would also mean I could never walk normally again!"



#### **IVAN KOLOFF**

"The one injury any wrestler is afraid of is a slipped disc. A wound like this can cripple for life. It is one of the most painful injuries there is in wrestling. Yet it can happen very easily when grappling."



#### HAYSTACKS CALHOUN

"I fear permanent paralysis after being thrown from the ring over the top rope and onto a concrete floor. This has never happened to me, yet it could come about someday. And this is what I fear most."



#### **LUKE GRAHAM**

"I do not fear any injury at all. There is no wound capable of stopping me. I am the man who inflicts the wounds. I do not receive any. I just laugh at the thought of sustaining any injury!"



#### ARGENTINA APOLLO

"The only type of injury I fear is having one of my legs broken. Since speed is one of my better points, any injury to a leg would severely hamper my style and cause me to lose matches."



#### **BILLY ROBINSON**

"A cracked rib is a terrible experience to go through. I would not even want to come near having one. While I do not go out of my way to avoid such an injury, I certainly wouldn't welcome it either.

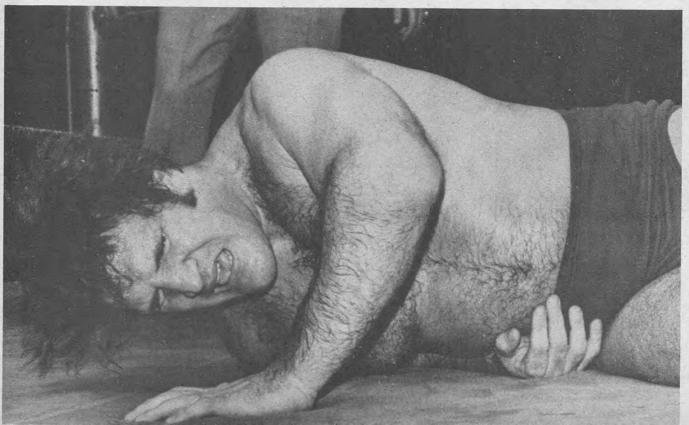


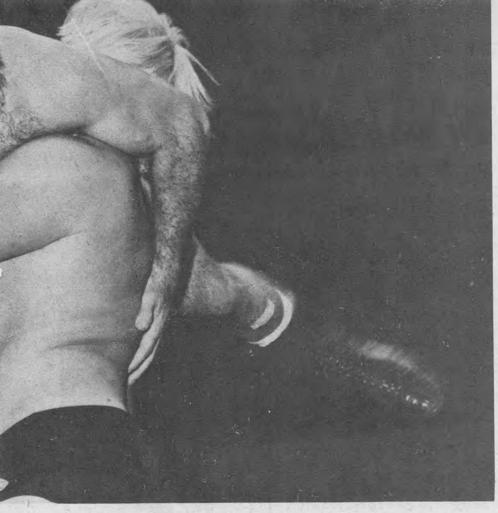
Bruno happily waves to the fans as they cheer his entrance into the arena (left). Will the wild cheers be Bruno's death knell?

> HOW THE FANS MAY BE

KILING SAM BRUNO SAM







Stan Hansen lifts Bruno high in the air and hurls him to canvas. Moments later, Stan would capture Bruno in an ugly lariat which would crack the vertebrae of Bruno's neck.

FOR MANY WEEKS, Bruno Sammartino sat immobile, waiting for the pain to subside and the extensive injuries in his neck to heal. During those long hours, an intense anger grew within the WWWF champion. He wanted revenge.

Revenge. Sammartino was almost ashamed of himself for feeling such base and animal emotions. He had always prided himself on his self-control. But no amount of self-control could contain Bruno Sammartino when he heard the name Stan Hansen. All he could think of was revenge.

Sitting in his hospital room, Bruno had a chance to watch various wrestling programs on television. On almost every one of them, he heard Stan Hansen brag about how he had crippled Bruno Sammartino. The anger within Sammartino grew. He wanted to go back and avenge the injuries he had suffered because of Hansen and his hated "lariat."

# MARTINO

Doubled over in pain on the mat (opposite page, left) or bloody from a savage brawling (right), Bruno will always find some reserve strength and win the bout—for the fans. His dedication to their happiness may tragically end his career.



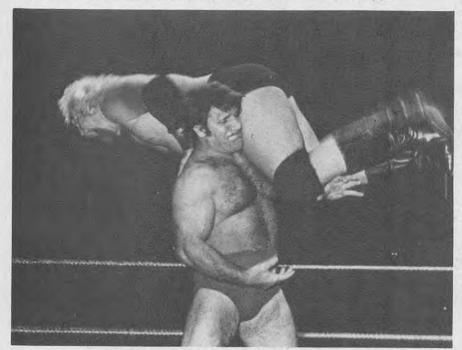
Sammartino's doctors were not sure whether Bruno should return to wrestling at all. One of them suggested he announce his retirement from the mat wars and forget all about any type of revenge on Stan Hansen. But the WWWF champion wouldn't hear talk like that. He kept his mind focused on that one thought—revenge.

There was only one element which could calm Bruno down—the fans. While in the hospital, Sammartino received thousands of cards and letters wishing him a speedy recovery. Every letter he received made Bruno remember he had a commitment to the fans. He was their champion. He

Even now, the best medical minds in the world don't know if Bruno Sammartino's neck has properly healed. So why does this living legend continue to wrestle? The answer is his love of the fans. But will this love someday mean a tragic ending to Bruno's career?



When Bruno was in the hospital (above), his doctor warned him about the many dangers he will face if he returns to wrestling. Yet to Bruno there are more important considerations than his own personal safety. With misgivings from almost everyone, Bruno goes against Stan Hansen (below). Sammartino went on to win the match; but did he lose something more precious—a little bit of his life?



would not behave like a madman. He would avenge his injuries, but he would do it with honor.

When he was sufficiently recovered from his injuries to resume training, Bruno started working out as much as possible. Reports started coming in to him about Hansen bragging everywhere he went about how his "lariat" had crippled Bruno Sammartino. Many of Bruno's fans were distressed to hear Hansen talk. They wanted to know where their champion was. They wanted to know what he was going to do to quiet Hansen once and for all.

Slowly, Bruno became resolved to the idea of wrestling Hansen in every arena in the WWWF to prove to the fans Stan's bragging was just idle chatter. When he mentioned this to his doctor, the physician vetoed the idea. But Bruno had made up his mind, and no one could change it. A commitment to his fans meant more to Bruno Sammartino than the words of his doctors, no matter what the risk involved was.

Finally it came time for Sammartino to make his return to wrestling. He signed to wrestle Stan Hansen in New York City's Shea Stadium, before 30,000 spectators. Again, the doctors warned Bruno to be as careful as possible, but Sammartino wouldn't listen. He felt he had an obligation to his fans.

That night, Bruno proved to the fans in New York he was a better man than Stan Hansen. He soundly defeated Stan, who was forced to flee from the ring for the safety of his dressing room. But for Bruno, this was only the beginning.

Soon after that first match, many fans wrote to Bruno telling him how great he was that night. They were glad he had beaten the wrestler from Texas. But Bruno wasn't satisfied. He wouldn't be satisfied until all the fans had seen him defeat Hansen. He felt he owed them that much.

(Continued on page 62)

## \*

Volume 1 Number 4

## Thesz Battles Ladd to Draw, Keeps Crown

Louis Thesz came out of the ring at the Sam Houston Coliseum on Friday night just barely holding onto his world's heavyweight title. He carned a draw with giant Ernie Ladd.

Fans flocked to the Coliseum to see what Ladd could do with Thesz but before the match had gone any minut they were





B ACK IN 1963, Ernie Ladd was more well known as a football player for the San Diego Chargers than as a wrestler. He had only been engaged in the mat wars for a few short months when he was slated to wrestle NWA champion Lou Thesz.

Usually, no rookie can even dream of having a title shot until he has been wrestling professionally for a few years. But Ernie Ladd, who had captured the imagination of the fans, had earned a chance at the title after only a few months as a rookie!"

Thousands of wrestling fans flocked to Sam Houston Coliseum to see how Thesz would handle this sensational rookie. No one was disappointed with the result.

The NWA champion was awarded the first fall of the night when he caught Ernie with a dropkick. Then Ladd surprised everyone by winning the second fall less than a minute later!

The contest for the final fall proved to be the most interesting. Ernie had caught Thesz with a bearhug and looked as if he was about to end the match. Lou, a cunning veteran of many years, resorted to one of his oldest tactics. Thesz patted the rookie wrestler on the back so Ernie would think the referee had just awarded him the match. Ladd let go of the bearhug he had on Thesz. Lou jumped up and applied a back body drop to a very surprised Ernie Ladd.

But things did not turn out right for Thesz. Ernie's weight was too much for Lou to handle, so both men fell to the canvas, completely stunned. The referee decided to call the match a draw, since neither man seemed ready to make a move at all.

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wide Wrestling Federation



Champion: BRUNO SAMMARTINO



1-BRUISER BRODIE

American Wrestling Association



CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE



1-VERNE GAGNE

National Wrestling Alliance



CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK



1-JACK BRISCO

Most Popular Wrestlers



-ANDRE THE

-ABDULLAH THE

BUTCHER



2-BRUNO SAMMARTINO

Tag Teams

Most Hated Wrestlers



1—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS



2-STAN HANSEN



2-STAN HANSEN



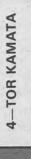
3-IVAN PUTSKI









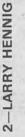


STRONGBOW **BOBO BRAZIL BILLY WHITE** CHIEF JAY WOLF 19 2

DOUG GILBERT VOLKOFF NIKOLAI 10ά 6

MONSOOM

GORILLA





3-PETER MAIVIA



4-BLACKJACK LANZA

BLACKJACK

MULLIGAN

10-RUSS FRANCIS 9—JIM BRUNZELL 6—GREG GAGNE 7—MAD DOG **BARON VON** RASCHKE DUNCUM VACHON BOBBY 8

BOB ORTON JR. JERRY LAWLER 8-RIC FLAIR 9-PAUL JONES **FRITZ VON** THE SHEIK ERICH



3-DUSTY RHODES

2-DUSTY RHODES

EXECUTIONERS

2—THE MASKED

3—THE SHEIK



4-MIL MASCARAS

JOHNSON

3-ROCKY



WRESTLING II 5-MR

**BILLY WHITE** 



CRUSHER



**BOB BACKLUND** 

9

DUNCUM

& STEVE KEIRN

7-THE VALIANT

BROTHERS

**GOLIATH &** 

BLACK

8—JACK BRISCO

9-CHIEF JAY

7-BOBO BRAZIL

6-IVAN PUTSKI

STRONGBOW

10-PAUL JONES

LANZA & BOBBY

BLACKJACK

2

WOLF

7-STAN STASIAK **BARON VON** MOONDOG RASCHKE MAYNE 10-

**BOB ORTON SR** 

9-THE MONGOLS 10-BOB ROOP &

GORDMAN

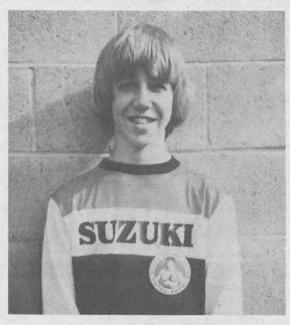


4-MAD DOG VACHON



5-THE SPOILER

## HERE IS FAN



Wrestling Fan of the month because when you step one foot in my room you can tell that I am a wrestling fan. I have one of my walls filled up with wrestling posters (starting on the second wall), a collection of 66 wrestling books, a miniature wrestling ring, and 8 × 10 photos everywhere. I also show my "wrestling friends" my Super 8 films that I take when I go to Randy Roberts the Spectrum in Philadelphia. I have such matches as: Bruno vs.

I think that I should be the Koloff . . . Gorilla Monsoon vs. Superstar Graham. I always watch TV wrestling on Saturday at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, and midnight, and Sunday at 1:00. I also did an oral report in school on becoming a wrestling promoter.

> Sorry it was over 100 words but when I start talking about wrestling it's hard to stop me!

Age 13

### **GUEST JUDGE:** CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW

I chose Randy over hundreds of others because he most exemplified what I feel to be the most important facet of a fan. To be a fan, in my opinion, a person must love the sport more than he admires any single wrestler. I think Randy fulfills that qualification perfectly.

When it comes right down to it, the sport is what is most important. No one is as great as it rules, regulations, maneuvers, holds, and strategies. A wrestler should be humble before the sport's history and unique qualities.

Fans should feel the same way. They must recognize the sport as a glorious calling, something to be looked upon with reverence. Nothing is too small to be overlooked; everything contributes to this marvelous and complex tapestry. Reading and collecting all one can on wrestling is the best way to do this.

I was especially impressed with Randy's dedication to seeing all the wrestling he can. It proves he knows how important the sport is, how complicated and in need of great study. The subtleties of wrestling are what make the sport great, at least in my opinion. To be a top fan, one must have a sense of this.

Many fans say such and such a

### RESTLING'S E MONTH

wrestler is "wrestling" to them. That's a very detrimental attitude toward the sport. Wrestlers know the sport will live on long after they hung up their trunks for good. And that's one of the reasons we're in the sport. We enjoy knowing it's part of some continually growing, continually changing spectacle. I want people 100 years from now to wonder how I'd do against the top man of that future time. As long as the sports lives, so will my accomplishments. Its greatness assures some little immortality for me.

Randy understands that the sport has been enjoyed for as long as man as lived. The greatest cultures saw the sport as the most perfect form of human combat. It's grown with the times, adapting itself to each age while remaining true to ideals. It's a privilege to be a part of this great sport, either as a participant or a spectator. Randy knows this, as his collection of magazines and memorabilia attest.

From his essay, I get the feeling Randy realizes how fortunate he is in being part of the ongoing development of this sport. He wants to know all about, learn its subtleties and divine its greatness. That's what I was looking for in the top fan of the month. Many qualified, but Randy qualified best.

# HOW YOU CAN BECOME WRESTLING'S FAN OF THE THE MONTH

If you think you deserve this honor, simply send us a photo of yourself and a 100-word essay telling why you're the best fan. This can take any form from straight narrative to a poem. Photos cannot be returned.

The entries will-be judged by our staff and a different wrestling star each month. The grappler will also tell why he voted the way he did, which may be the most revealing article about a wrestler you'll ever read.

Remember, the contest is called "Wrestling Fan of the Month," not "A Wrestler's Fan of the Month." This contest is intended to honor a sport, not a particular participant.

So while we admire those who work long and selflessly on their favorite wrestler's fan magazine, that's not a qualification in this contest. Fan club workers are rightfully honored elsewhere.

Without the fan, wrestling would wither and die. Because of the fans, wrestling has become the most popular sport in the world. It's about time the fans receive the recognition they deserve.

As soon as possible, send your photos and essays to:

TOP FAN CONTEST c/o INSIDE WRESTLING Box 58 Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

### By Randy Gordon

EW PEOPLE PAID much attention to the handsome man wandering aimlessly through the streets. In a large city, a man can do what he wants without being asked questions. The wanderer, Johnny Powers, didn't want to answer other

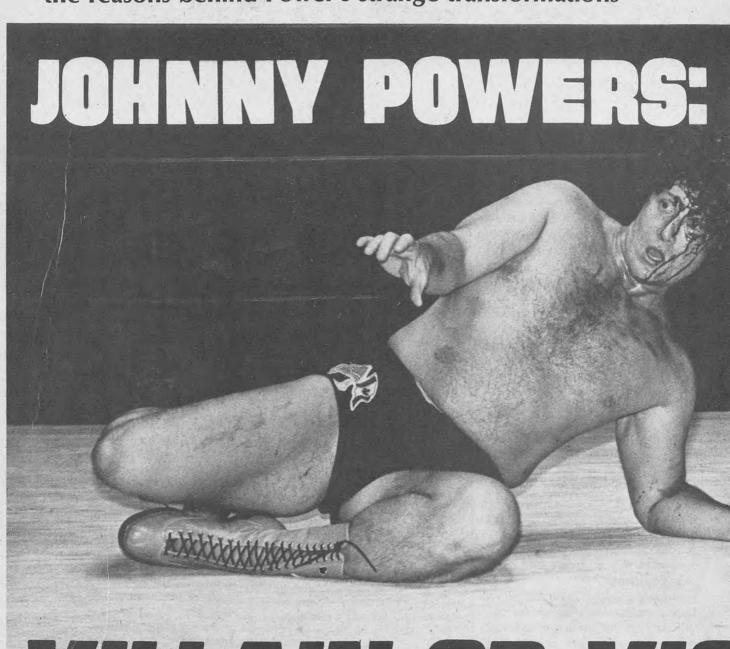
people's questions; he was too busy trying to answer his own.

Powers knew his future couldn't hide from the past. Who he was and how he would be viewed were questions he had to decide. For too long, he had allowed the situation to control him. A man can't live by just reacting — he must initiate the

action at least some of the time. A man is more than what other people think of him.

For years, Johnny has let circumstance dictate his actions. At times, he's wrestled scientifically. Other matches have seen him at his rule-breaking worst. What terrifies Powers is his inability to control

At the present time, Johnny Powers is a fan favorite. However, he has been known to suddenly revert to the ways of a vicious rulebreaker. Here, for the first time, are the reasons behind Power's strange transformations



VILLAIN OR VIG

himself. Even he doesn't suspect what will happen when he goes out to wrestle.

So Powers, alone amidst the throng, walked along the city streets. He had to find some way of being a master of his own destiny. Powers longed for a measure of control.

As he walked, Johnny thought of the matches he most regretted. He recalled the blood pounding in his eyes as he sneak attacked innocent opponents. He remembered wreaking havoc on foes as his former fans booed, their anger making him rage even more wildly.



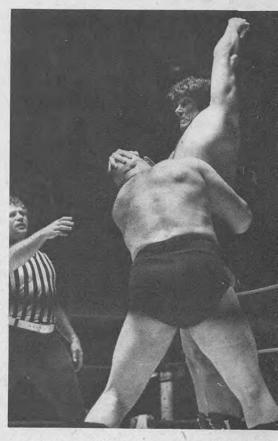
And then there were the moments in the dressing room afterward, when he tried to figure out why he'd done it.

An hour later, Johnny walked into a small but excellent French restaurant. He had an appointment to meet a few journalists and they were already seated. Powers excused himself for being late and sat down heavily. He had something to say.

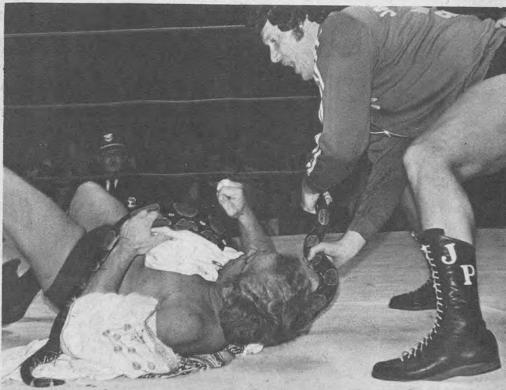
"The reason I gathered you here this evening," he said with a rueful smile, "was to answer the questions people keep asking about me. They want to know why I am scientific one minute, then a rulebreaker the next. Well, gentlemen, I called you here because I don't know the answer. I've read all your work and you're the most perceptive reporters in wrestling. I want to know why I go crazy."

The reporters sat there in stunned silence. These men are used to asking questions, not answering them. However, this reporter did have some theories and decided to reveal them to Powers.

"Every match in which you've gone out of control," I said, "has come after a match where you didn't do well, at least not as well as you wanted. I think you carry that failure with you. The only way you can get rid of it is by winning. And the only sure way of winning is to cheat. (Continued on page 64)

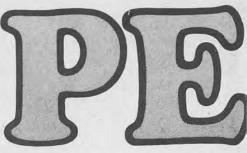


Powers is a determined young grappler against the ruthless Bolo Mongol (above), one of the most dangerous men in all wrestling. Against another and possibly even more dangerous foe, Sheik, Powers employs a boa constrictor (below), as Sheik is terrified of snakes.



### For Wrestling Fans Everywhere From 6 to 60 ... EVERYBODY can join Wonderful in on the fun . . . There's nothing to buy!

### the World of



If you join "The Wonderful World of Pen Pals," you can make new friends throughout the world. And all of your new pen pals will be wrestling fans too! We will print your picture right here in this magazine, and also a little bit of information about who you are. That way, your new pen pals will know something about you even before they start to send you their letters! Just thinkyou can have the chance to receive mail from all over the world! All you have to do is fill out the coupon below and mail it to us, along with a recent picture. We'll take it from there.

PHOTOS CANNOT BE RETURNED!

Name	Age
Address	
City Sta	ate Zip
Hobbies, other	interests
Favorite Wrestle	er
l like □ Good	Guys   Bad Guys
What Kind of Pe	erson Would You Like
As Your Pen Pa	1
Will You Write t	o Pen Pals In Foreigr
Lands	
You Have My Pe	ermission To Print My

(Sign Your Name)



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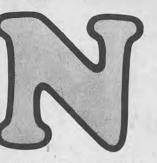
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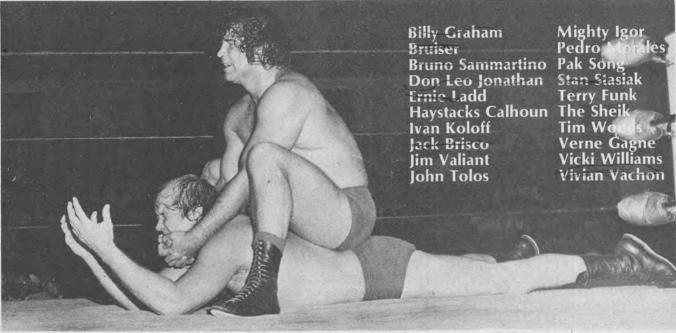


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Somewhere in this puzzle are the names of 20 top wrestlers which are listed in alphabetical order.

The names in the puzzle read in a straight line. But they can read across from left to right, right to left, going up or down, diagonally down from left to right, diagonally up from left to right, diagonally down from right to left and diagonally up from right to left.

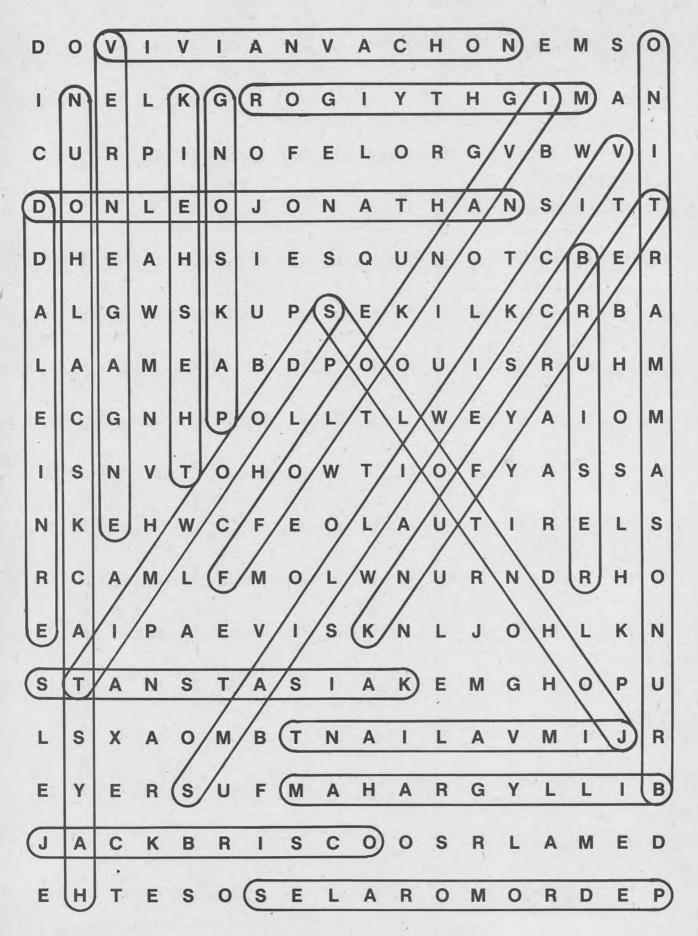
Not all the letters in the puzzle are parts of answers. Some letters are used for

more than one name.

When you find the name, circle it. If you don't find the name, keep looking for it. We promise it's in there.

If you find all 20 within 30 minutes, you're doing very well. In the same time, 10 to 15 correct is good and you should be excellent by the next puzzle.

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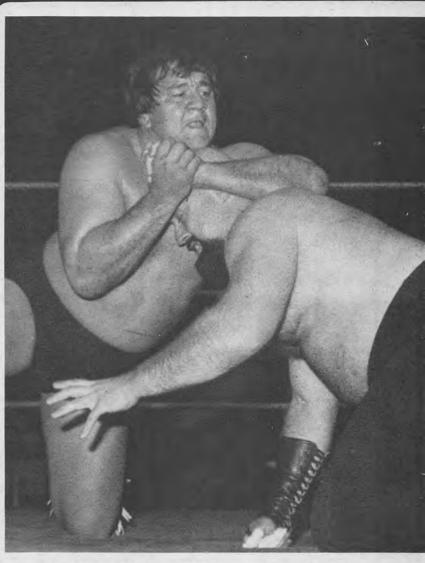
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### INSIDE Wrestling

### WAHOO McDANIEL

### 4 Capsule Profile





Chief Wahoo McDaniel (left) is one of the most respected men in wrestling. His skill and power are among the best in his profession. Against Brute, McDaniel shows he is an expert at the headlock (above)—to Brute's agony!

orites of wrestling fans everywhere... Was once a star football player for Dallas, New York, Houston, and Miami... Traces his ancestry to the Choctow Indians and is very proud of this heritage... Usually enters an arena in full Indian headgear ("Wearing headgear is usually good luck for me.")... Possesses great power and is very quick when necessary...

Best known for his Tomahawk Chop ("It has helped me win many matches.") ... Has a habit of losing his temper on occassion and being disqualified ... A good tag team partner, but prefers to wrestle as a single ("It's easier to concentrate if I don't have to worry about someone else.") ... Has wrestled some of the top men in the sport ... Has been beaten bloody and still come back to win the match

. . . Usually wrestles with a specific strategy in mind, but can become flustered by his opponent . . . Once held the Americas title ("I can't think of a greater point in my entire wrestling career.") . . . Believes the fans should always see him at his best and hates to disappoint any spectator at his matches . . . A truly fine athlete and one of the greatest wrestlers in the sport.



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### **PAUL JONES**

(Continued from Page 24)

"But I can't give up so easily. Sure, I've had a few setbacks. I may have many more before this dry spell breaks. But I have an obligation to my fans not to quit—at least not yet."

With that said, Paul suddenly seemed more relaxed. It was as if he needed to verbalize his worst fears. He began talking again about the battle he had just completed with Flair.

"I made a lot of foolish mistakes in there tonight," he said. "And because I made those errors, Ric Flair deserved to win. But I promise it will never happen again. I won't back away from a maneuver I know can cripple. That's what happened tonight. I just backed away from everything.

"I must stop being afraid when I get inside the ropes. It just cannot happen again. I won't let it happen again.



Above: With a mighty heave, a determined Ric Flair sends his foe flying. Below: Paul lies on the concrete in great pain.



Things may be bad now, but I promise things will be better soon. This rut can't last forever."

There was a touch of sadness in Paul's voice. It was clear he regretted all the mistakes he had recently made. He wanted desperately for everyone to believe the problems were going to go away.

It might be a pledge to change is what Paul needs to come out of his slump. The firm conviction in his mind could be just the thing he needs to snap back to his former form. Anyone who has seen the classic battles he has been in knows Paul Jones is one of the most talented grapplers in the sport. A slump is just a temporary thing, usually.

It might be a pledge to change is not enough to break the slump. With every setback, Paul could become more and more desperate, finally deciding to leave wrestling altogether. This would be a great mistake for him, and a great loss for the sport.

No matter what happens, Jones has thousands of faithful fans in his corner, hoping for the best. They admire and respect this great athlete. They sympathize for him in his hour of distress. But they do not want him to quit wrestling. They believe he can come out of this slump and go on to even greater glory than he enjoyed before.

It's all a matter of time now. No one knows for sure whether Jones will get out of the rut he's in, or whether he will have to give up battling in the mat wars. We can only hope his conviction and dedication to the sport he loves so much will see him through this terrible trouble.

### ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)

knocked on his door. I heard some Arabic phrase muttered back to me. I thought it meant, "come in." Later, when I had time to translate it, I discovered it meant, "go away." Oh well.

I opened the door and stepped in gingerly. There, standing 10 feet in front of me, stood The Sheik. To say I was shaking at the sight of this notorious wrestler would be an understatement.

Quickly, I consulted by handy dictionary, looking up how to say, "hello," in Arabic. Just as I was approaching the page the information was on, Sheik started coming toward me. I quickly changed my plan. I started looking up the Arabic for, "Calm down, I'm here to interview you." I did not manage to find that one.

The only form of communication remaining as an option to me was sign language. I offered my hand to The Sheik, as if to shake. He grabbed my hand and flung me across the room. I lay on the floor near the opposite wall. My dictionary was lost forever.

It was never my intention to become involved in a wrestling match with The Sheik. But it somehow happened. I wanted to interview him. That's all I wanted! A few simple answers to a few simple questions would have been more than sufficient. I got the distinct impression Sheik does not like the press.

For one last time, I tried to communicate my intentions to Sheik. Apparently he did not want to understand. I quickly scrambled to my feet. A quick exit seemed to be the best idea for the moment. I rushed toward the door. I never saw it coming.

The Sheik started throwing fire at mel

I always knew being a reporter had its dangers, but this was getting ridiculous! I had no desire to be burnt, but that was what was happening. I quickly exited, forgetting any ideas of interviewing this wrestler.

Thank you, I am recovering nicely from the second degree burns. I'll be on the road again next month. Hopefully, I'll be interviewing someone a little safer than The Sheik!



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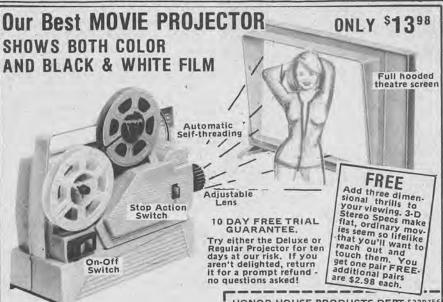
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### **BEHIND THE DOOR**

(Continued from Page 10)

grapevine that Abdullah the Butcher is annoyed we feel he is the second most hated wrestler in the country.

"He wants to be the most despised wrestler in history," said our source. "Abdullah is highly insulted that you feel The Sheik is more hated than him. He has vowed to go on a personal rampage that will make him not only the most hated wrestler around today, but the most hated person in history." He must really be planning to do some downright vile and reprehensible things!

Here's one you're gonna have trouble believing. I recently went to an exclusive French restaurant with Bulldog Brower. There was wine, caviar, duck a l'orange, escargot and more wine. Everything was strictly first class. After the meal, however, I nearly crawled under the table as Brower pulled a big dog biscuit out of his jacket pocket, growled and barked at it, then wolfed it down. I was totally embarassed and flabbergasted. When I got up to leave, Bulldog growled at me, and I just meekly smiled and stayed in my seat.

It may sound like a made up story, but I swear on my reputation it's all true, as is everything I give to you in "Behind the Dressing Room Door."

At a recent show in Florida, a female fan shyly came over to me and asked for my autograph. She said she had contemplated for over one hour on coming up to me, but couldn't get up the courage. Don't feel that way! I'm one of you. Come on over when you see me-we'll rap about your favorite wrestlers, and if you remind me, I'll even tell you the identity of The Executioners, I'm still fuming over the fact they threatened me with bodily harm if I printed their identity. However, they never said anything about word of mouth!

I am not one who backs away when pushed. If a wrestler pushes, I go to the proper authorities. They all know it, and they all respect me for it. The Executioners are an exception, and they'll regret forcing me to refrain from announcing their identity. At arenas all over the country I'll be getting introduced by the ring announcer, then step to



Ivan Putski and reporter Randy Gordon gloat over their plan to foil Stan Hansen's "lariat."

center ring and tell you all who The Executioners are.

When I was young, I swore to become the best wrestling reporter on the face of this planet. If there is a better, more thorough reporter anywhere, he certainly is not on this Earth.

I have not achieved my standing by idly sitting behind a typewriter and making long distance phone calls. I go out firsthand and grab a story while it is still hot. If the wrestlers don't like it, well, that's their tough luck. I have become the hottest wrestling reporter in the country by hard work, perseverance, sacrifice, and your kind help. After all, a man can't be a great reporter without people to report things to. I couldn't ask for a better audience than you.

I have been cutting my work hours down for the next month so I can go into training to face 'Stan Hansen's lariat. I'm confident Ivan Putski gave me the proper defense for it, and I feel I'm a skilled enough athlete so as to have no trouble avoiding it. Wish me luck.

CONFIDENTIAL TO DAVID ABEL: I spoke to Andre, and he already is.

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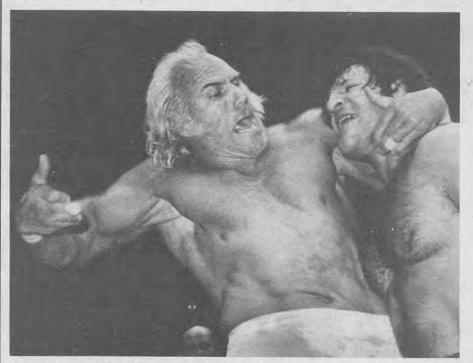


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### SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 21)



Above: Billy Graham prepares to drive his fingers into the eyes of Bruno Sammartino. It's a typical move by Graham, who fans are chiding for calling Sammartino a dirty wrestler. Below: A stunned Bugsy McGraw reacts to the news that fans don't believe his claims concerning the "dirty" tactics of champ Sammartino.



Stan Hansen-Bruno is being provoked by some of the dirtiest wrestlers in

What can Sammartino do but fight fire with fire. Bruno is the greatest champion of all time. Why should he risk getting hurt and losing the belt? Is it his fault?

By the way, I think your magazine has turned from a good publication to the best. Keep it up.

> MARSHA MANDELLA Omaha, Neb.

### BRUNO A DIRTY WRESTLER?

You published an article on "Bruno Is the Dirtiest Wrestler in History" (INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1976), in which Bruno's opponents show pictures of him doing illegal moves. However, I don't think they are really illegal tactics. I think it is just the camera angle.

Billy Graham says Bruno kicked him in the groin. I would like to know if Billy got up after that one. If he did that means Bruno didn't even kick him hard. Next Ernie Ladd savs Bruno choked him. Well, what about Ladd's taped thumb? Then Spiros Arion said Bruno attacked him after the match was over, and if his manager didn't pull him off, he would have killed Sammartino. I think all Bruno fans agree Arion deserved it after calling the WWWF champion names. Bruno was right to do what he did. As for Bugsy McGraw saying he deserves to be champion, I almost died laughing. That fat slob Lou Albano is just as crazy as McGraw. Albano is the dirtiest wrestler in history.

I think Bruno Sammartino is the greatest wrestler in history, and everyone should agree!

> PAUL FIOLEK South Amboy, N.J.



Joey Bishop is amazed at the size of Andre's the Giant's hand compared to his own. The gargantuan grappler is becoming a familiar face on television.

### THE OTHER WAY AROUND

I read your article, "Bruno Is the Dirtiest Wrestler in History" (IN-SIDE WRESTLING/July 1976), and I feel it is pure garbage. Actually, it should have been the other way around. Billy Graham, Ernie Ladd, Ivan Koloff, Bugsy McGraw, Bobby Duncum, are, and always have been, the real rulebreakers. The only time Bruno breaks the rules is when he is forced to do so. Who are these guys trying to pull a fast one on? It is assuredly not the fans!

WOODIE CHAVIS Georgetown, S.C.

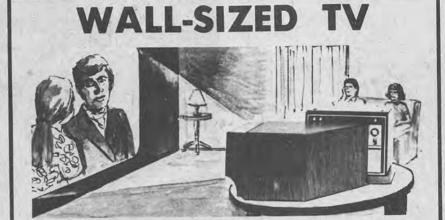
### ANDRE IS ONLY HUMAN

I am writing in reply to your article, "Why Andre the Giant May Be Forced to Quit Wrestling" (INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1976). I first would like to say I believe Andre is one of the greatest wrestlers of all times, and that he is the eighth wonder of the wrestling world.

Second, Andre is a human being like you or me. Being a human being, he has the right to think of himself first and do what is best for himself, even if he finds he must hurt all of his fans.

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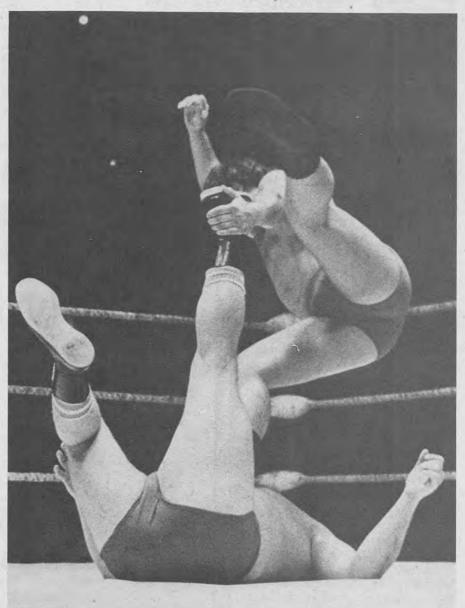


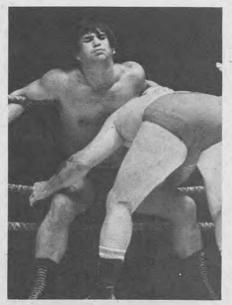
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### HARLEY RACE

(Continued from Page 23)





A flying leg bender (above) is just one of the many maneuvers Jerry uses on Race. Race gets Jerry caught in the ropes (left) and bashes his head in Jerry's midsection, hoping to hurt him.

everything to make Harley realize the Briscos were just human—they could be beaten. Harley knew this, but he was paralyzed as soon as he entered the arena.

Race finally tried hypnosis to overcome the fear of Briscos. The hypnotist tried to make Harley believe he was wrestling a preliminary wrestler rather than a Brisco. The trance worked for less than a minute. Race came out of it as soon as Jerry tried to capture him in a figure-four leglock.



Jerry locks Harley in yet another headlock, just one of the many holds that took its toll on Race during this battle.

Once the trance was broken, Harley again became the overly cautious grappler who had no chance of winning. It was a dejected man who limped back to the dressing room after this battle.

As Race lay on the training table, his sorrowful reverie was interrupted by the hypnotist.

"The trance was destroyed," the hypnotist said, "because Jerry did something which was closely associated to the Briscos—the figure-four leglock. Your subconscious mind couldn't ignore that. Hypnosis could no longer protect you from such a strong association. I'm sorry, but hypnosis can't help you against the Briscos."

Harley didn't say anything. The hypnotist stood around for a few more seconds, then realized he was being dismissed. Silently, he left the dressing room to Race and his sorrow.

Reporters wanting to talk to Harley after the match never received an answer to any of their questions. For more than an hour they waited, then those with deadlines had to leave. Finally, even the magazine reporters left in disgust. Only one reporter waited—for five hours. Finally Race decided to talk.

"You stood here for five hours," Race said, shaking his head. "You're a fool. I'm not saying anything."

Race then rushed past the reporter and onto the parking lot. He didn't want to speak to the reporter because he didn't have any answers.

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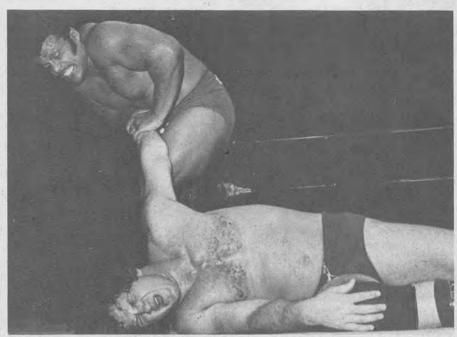
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### ROCKY JOHNSON—TERRY FUNK

(Continued from Page 31)



Above: Rocky relentlessly works on Funk's arm as he senses the moment of victory and the NWA championship. With professional expertise, he approaches his quest. Right, opposite page: Terry flies through the air from a magnificently executed flip by his relentless tormentor. Below: Johnson's strong body is extended to its most powerful as he pummels a cornered and trapped Funk.



they knew to finish off the other toward a draw.

the two men tried every maneuver tinous action, Terry looked like he was beginning to tire. It was obvious man, but nothing seemed to work. to everyone in the arena that if It seemed this match was headed Rocky could muster up one last reserve of strength, the NWA cham-After 85 minutes of this con- pionship would be his. He found

that last reserve.

Johnson mounted an amazing attack. Terry was dazed by the assault, and was soon flat on his back on the canvas. Rocky had Funk's shoulders on the mat. The referee started counting. Funk would never escape being pinned.

"One."

"Two."

Suddenly, the bell rang, ending



the match! It was officially a draw. Terry Funk kept his title.

It took the champion almost a minute to rise from the canvas. Two men had to assist him back to the dressing room. He carried the belt in his hand.

A timing of the filmed account of the match proved one thing-that battle did not last 90 minutes! When the final bell rang, there was still one minute and thirty-one seconds left in the match. The timekeeper -Funk's handpicked man — had rung the bell early. Rocky Johnson should have been awarded the title.

There is little anyone can do now about what happened. The NWA has already accepted the results as official. If Rocky Johnson wants the belt, he will have to face Terry Funk again. This time, he would be wise not to accept a timekeeper supplied by Funk. This time, he would be wise to not let Funk try any devious pre-match maneuver which will ensure Johnson a defeat.

What Terry Funk did to Rocky Johnson wasn't fair and it wasn't right. He cheated him out of the NWA championship!

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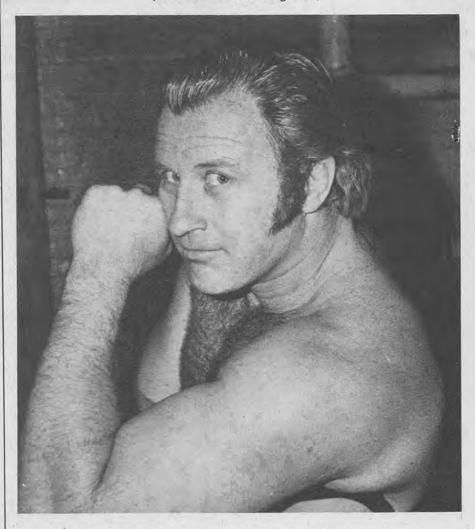
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### **BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS**

(Continued from Page 18)



Nick Bockwinkle—The kingpin of the American Wrestling Association. Bockwinkle, Funk, and Sammartino are urged to have it out in a superbowl of wrestling to finally determine one single heavyweight champ.

responsible to the fans in more ways than just grappling skills. They have a responsibility to take care of the sport itself. They can no longer sit back and let the commissioners slander the title. The athletes themselves must band together to protect themselves and the fans.

The real champion of wrestling today isn't around yet. He'll be the man who organizes other grapplers and forces the commissions to unite. He'll be the sport's savior, the one to whom future generations will pay homage. The real battle in wrestling is not within the ropes—it's behind commission doors!

As of now, wrestlers have been hesitant to say anything or do anything. Ahtletes are traditionally the last people to unionize. They are also the most timid when it comes to confronting commission

authority. However, wrestlers can no longer afford to sit back and let the sport be run into the ground by a few bureacratic bozos.

The commissions are obviously incapable—or unwilling—to settle their differences. They can no longer be allowed to take their sweet time about saving the sport. They must be forced to unite.

Fan are urged to write to the commissions and demand negotiations be started immediately. Wrestlers should also be contacted, asking them to unite their fellow athletes and force the commissions' hands. After almost two decades of commission incompetance, the fans and wrestlers must begin to unite in one common goal.

There are many great athletes in wrestling. The question is whether there is one single hero.

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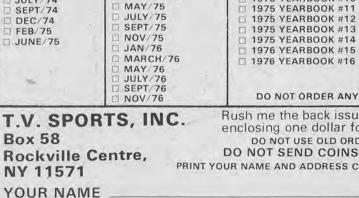
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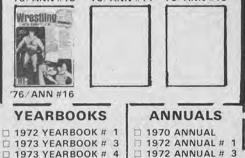
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### **BRUNO SAMMARTINO**

(Continued from Page 36)



No one can deny Bruno's greatness as he comes back from a neck injury to wreak revenge upon Stan Hansen. Yet, is this to be the first of many victories or a last triumph before the tragedy?

Meanwhile, the doctors ordered Sammartino to take a rest before he tried wrestling again. They told him his commitment to his fans could wait until he was fully recovered. But Bruno still wouldn't listen. The fans were more important to him than any personal problem, no matter what its effect might be.

Fans in many parts of the WWWF started clamoring for another match between Bruno and Hansen. They had heard Hansen's claims; now they wanted to see Bruno shut Stan up for good. Bruno started taking matches of all types everywhere in the WWWF. His doctors grew more and more worried.

To add more problems to the ones Bruno already had, three new opponents came to the WWWF to challenge Bruno for his title—Nikolai Volkoff, Bruiser Frank Brodie, and Doug Gilbert. Sammartino has accepted their challenges, besides his scheduled matches with Hansen.

"I'm doing this for the fans," said Bruno. "I don't want them to think any less of me as a champion. I must wrestle a full schedule now. I cannot allow the fans to think Stan Hansen has caused me to be any less of a wrestler than I was before.

"The doctors have told me I shouldn't return to wrestling fulltime. But they do not understand. I must do this for the fans. They expect me to be a full-time champion. If I wasn't, then I would have to give up the belt.

"I cannot let my fans down. They deserve to see me accept any challenge. And I will accept any challenge, no matter what!"

Many fans are thrilled to hear Bruno will accept any challenge, but they are not hearing the full story. Repeatedly the doctors have warned Sammartino about his schedule. They have told him another "lariet" by Hansen could be enough to leave him permanently paralyzed. They have told him too much strain on the neck could cause permanent injury. Bruno is aware of this, but the fans are not.

Therefore, every time the fans demand another match for Bruno Sammartino, they are risking the champion's health. The doctors have warned Bruno, but he still maintains his fans come first. "There are too



Bruiser Brodie (above), feared in every wrestling arena in the world, will soon challenge the WWWF champ. Can Sammartino survive his savage onslaught?



Doug Gilbert will soon come to the WWWF area to get a crack at Sammartino's belt. Will he be the one to finish Bruno?

many people who depend on me," said Sammartino. "I cannot disappoint them."

Bruno continues to wrestle with all his brilliant fury. He continues to give 100 per cent of himself in every match for the fans' enjoyment. They are the reason he had kept such a gruelling schedule instead of taking time off to allow his injuries to fully heal.

The fans may be killing Bruno Sammartino, but he won't let them know that. However, if the WWWF champion should one day be permanently injured, the fans will have no one to blame but themselves.  **WE ARE GIVING AWAY OVER** 

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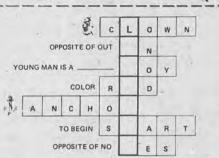
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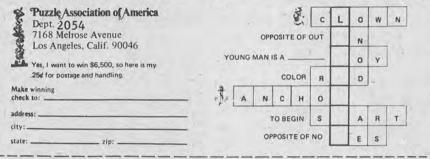
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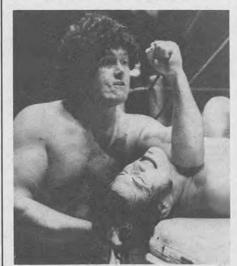
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### **VILLAIN OR VICTIM**

(Continued from Page 43)



Fans cheered Johnny's assault on Ernie Ladd (above), but booed his unscrupulous attack on the Japanese star, Antonio Inoki, outside the ring (below). Can anyone understand this star?



"I think a bad match scares you, as it does most athletes. But most can overcome the fear. You can't. You have to pound it out on your next foes. Only when you're satisfied the cheating isn't necessary, only when you've savaged a slew of innocent men, do you have enough confidence in yourself to return to scientific wrestling.

"Many times, your confidence comes too late. The fans have turned on you and other scientific wrestlers hate you. So you find yourself forced into being a rule-breaker. Finally, you leave the area a confused and bitter man."

Powers sat through this painful analysis without moving a muscle. His eyes seemed blank. When he spoke, it was in a whisper which almost cracked.

"What do you suggest?" he asked.

"You have to find the answer," was my reply, "and remember, who's to say I'm right about the reason in the first place."

'You're right," Powers declared and got up from the table without eating. The man walked away as if late for the most important appointment of his life.

Two nights later, Johnny Powers wrestled Bulldog Brower. The troubled grappler wrestled as scientifically as possible against Brower and his interfering manager, Billy Hines. When Brower brought a foreign object into the fray, Powers grabbed it from him. But he used it only to defend himself against Brower and Hines. Johnny



A confused, exhausted Powers stumbles back to the dressing room after a tough match. He never really controlled himself.

Powers was obviously in control of his emotions.

Powers was exultant when he saw me later in the dressing room. He proved he could control his emotions, he shouted happily. It was to begin a whole new era for him.

I didn't have the heart to remind him he always wrestles scientifically when he's doing well. If he had been losing against Brower and still wrestled scientifically, then there would be cause for celebration. Now, it was simply Powers as usual.

The future will tell whether Johnny Powers is in control of himself or ready to explode at the first bad match. Johnny wants to be a man the fans can always respect. Then again, a lot of men want things they can never become.



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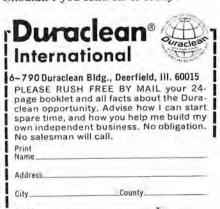
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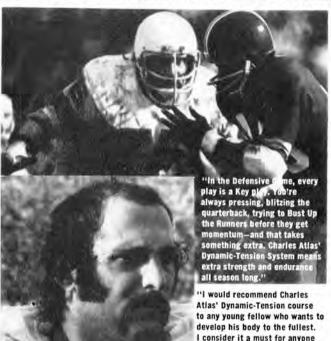
"I always wanted to be my own boss and manage my own time. Even tho I went back to school and completed 2 years of college, I could not get beyond being a machinist. The highest I could get might have been lead man if I kept trying for it. I could see only more years of the same, chained to a machine until retirement. Now, every day brings new and exciting experiences. I've eliminated the confines of a factory, got the boss off my back, and no time clock to punch. I can arrange my time to do whatever I want, have no one to answer to, plus I'm making more money! I have my own business, and I am my own man!"



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